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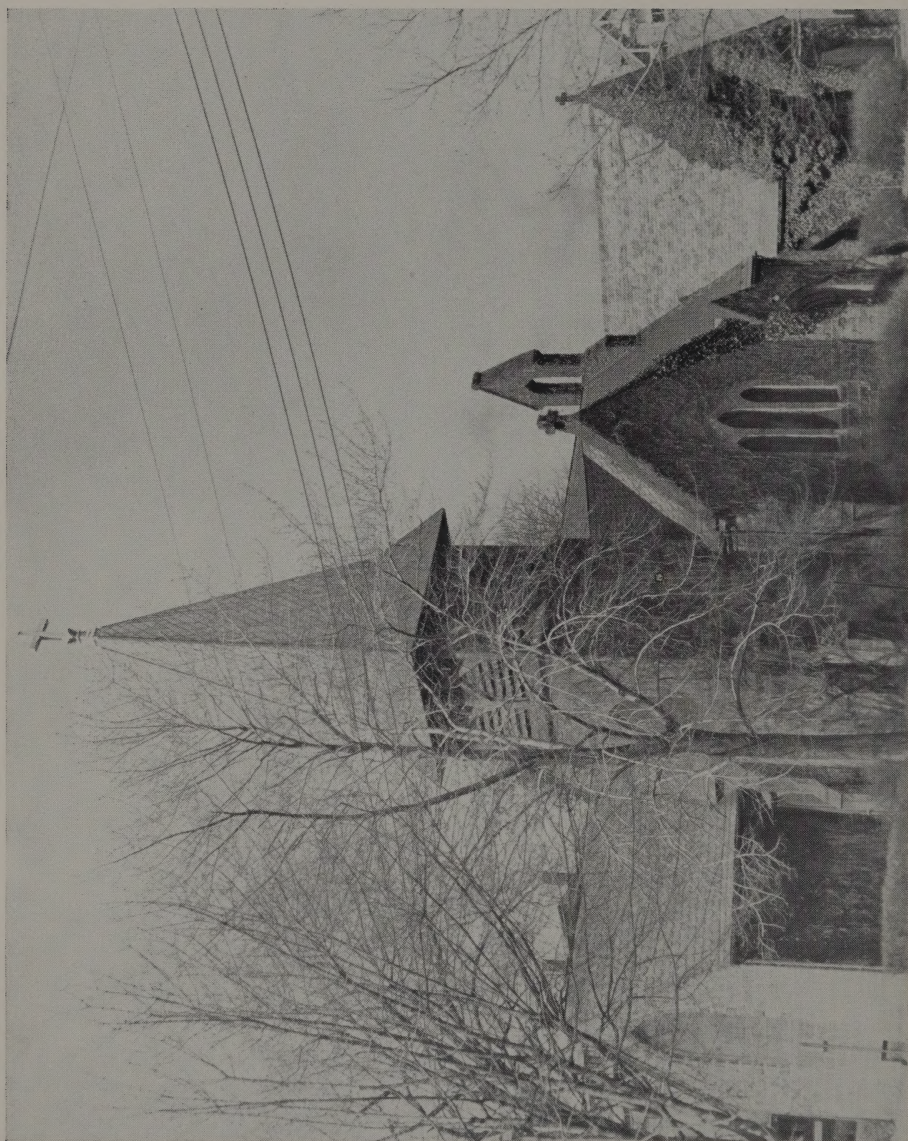
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*The History of St. Michael's
Protestant Episcopal Church
1851 — 1951*



ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH—1951

THE HISTORY
of
St. Michael's Protestant
Episcopal Church

BIRDSBORO, PENNSYLVANIA



In Celebration of the
One Hundredth Anniversary
1851 — 1951


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DANIEL K. MILLER, SECRETARY
ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Foreword

HE approach of the time for celebrating the 100th Anniversary of St. Michael's brought a realization that there had never been written a history of the Church. True, there were historical sermons delivered in 1872, 1891 and 1928, covering brief outlines of outstanding events.

To correct the omission of a history, the Rector, the Rev. Thomas B. Smythe, at the January 1950 meeting of the Vestry, appointed a Book Committee composed of Daniel K. Miller, Chairman, Mrs. John S. Herbein, James F. Bell, Harry L. Hart and John M. Hohl.

The Committee held a meeting shortly there-after and decided to publish the book in chapters with the Chairman writing the history of the Church, the Choir, the Parish House (Reading Room), and the Cemetery; Mrs. Herbein:—the Sunday School and the Women's organizations; Mr. John S. Herbein:—the Men's and Boy's organizations; and the Rector to write the Biographies, the Memorials, and the Stained Glass Windows.

The No. 1 Minute Book was missing. It contained the records of the Vestry meetings from the founding of the Church to 1916. From that time until the present, the records were available. The Church Register, in three volumes, has been kept up to date. Other sources of information were:—The Rev. Edmund Leaf's pamphlet "Now and Then", 1872, and a similar pamphlet by the Rev. Benj. F. Thompson, published in 1901; the Rev. Mr. Thompson's Scrap Book, 1892-1907; records from a personal diary, 1907-1916; and a total of 150 hours' research of the copies of the Berks and Schuylkill Journal, Reading, 1850-1893; and several years' issues of the weekly edition of the Reading Eagle, at the Home of the Historical Society of Berks County, Reading, by the Chairman and Mr. Hohl.

The Rector devoted considerable time in providing material for his assignments, completing the collection of photographs and having them restored with the help of Mr. Marshall Post; and in reviewing and checking the other articles. Mr. Bell and Mr. Hart also reviewed and checked the articles.

Every effort was made to include information of importance without duplication of similar items.

DANIEL K. MILLER, *Chairman*



THE RIGHT REVEREND FRANK W. STERRETT

March 13, 1951

The Rev. Thomas B. Smythe
St. Michael's Church
Birdsboro, Pennsylvania

Dear Neighbor:

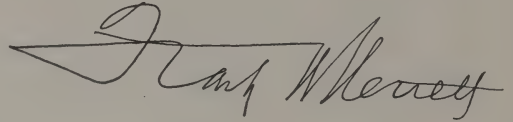
My congratulations and good wishes to the Rector, Church Wardens, Vestrymen and all the good people of St. Michael's Parish on the occasion of their 100th Anniversary.

It has been my happy privilege to be associated with the clergy

and parishioners over many years, and I am looking forward to being present at the Centennial celebration in May when I hope to present my greetings in person.

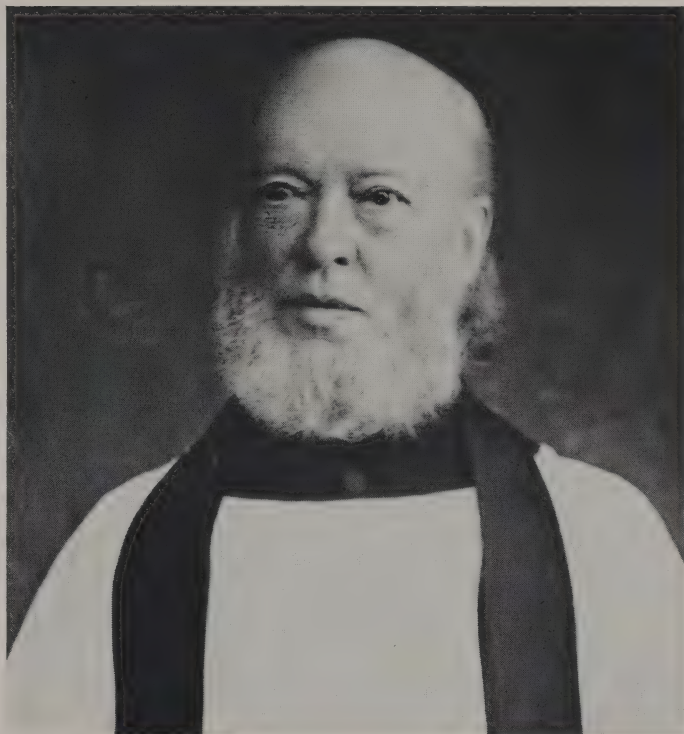
May there be many years of worthwhile service in the days ahead.

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Frank Wherry". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Faithfully,".

The Clergy

THE REVEREND EDMUND LEAF 1851-1891



The Reverend Edmund Leaf, founder and first Rector of St. Michael's Church was born in Pottstown, Pa., November 3, 1818, the same year which also marked the birth of George Brooke, with whom Mr. Leaf was so closely associated for forty years. He received his education at Yale University, graduating in the Class of 1841. He was made Deacon in the Church of Christ in 1840; and after completing his College work, he spent three years in Delaware under a Priest-preceptor studying for the Priesthood, which he received from Bishop Lee of Delaware in 1844. He married Harriet Potts Clay, by whom he had four children, at least three of whom were baptized in Douglassville by his friend, The Reverend Thomas C. Yarnall. In 1844 he was called to be Rector of Christ Church, Pottstown and of St. Gabriel's Church, Douglassville. He served Christ Church until 1858 and Douglass-

ville until 1876, when he moved to the new Rectory, just built in Birdsboro. For over 100 years the Clergy in Douglassville had been serving the needs of Churchmen in Birdsborough (sic), and it was in 1850-1851 that Mr. Leaf began regular services first in Union Township, then in the Borough of Birdsboro itself. He assumed full charge of the Birdsboro Church, continuing with his two other charges for another 25 years. In 1876 with the help of his old friend, George Brooke, he built the present Rectory on "Old Street", now Mill Street, Birdsboro, and resided there until his death. He established St. Michael's Cemetery, as a community burial-ground, in 1867, and is the only former Rector to be interred there. His burial took place June 20, 1891, and was conducted by The Reverend John Long, formerly Rector at Douglassville, and by Bishop Rulison, assisted by the Rev. Messrs. Abel, Edwards, Orrick, Lightner, Dalrymple, McElwee, and Nelson.

During Mr. Leaf's incumbency, many new families were brought into the Church, the plant of the Church was largely increased, the Edward Brooke Reading Room was constructed, and St. Michael's Church soundly established. For a number of years Mr. Leaf was the only resident minister of any Church in Birdsboro, and families of Churches other than the Protestant Episcopal Church would frequently bring their children for Baptism in St. Michael's Church. Marriages and Burials were also out of proportion to the actual size of the Episcopal congregation. Mrs. Leaf died in December 1892, and was laid to rest beside her husband in St. Michael's Cemetery. One of the present older members of the Church remembers Mr. Leaf chasing him out of the Rectory garden, where Mr. Leaf was raising fine rasp-berries, and again being sent to the store to buy fine-cut tobacco, which Mr. Leaf preferred for his chewing. The late Harry E. Hart told of Mr. Leaf's championing the unpopular cause of organized labor, when the Knights of Labor were prominent in 1880. A bronze tablet in the Church reads:

SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF

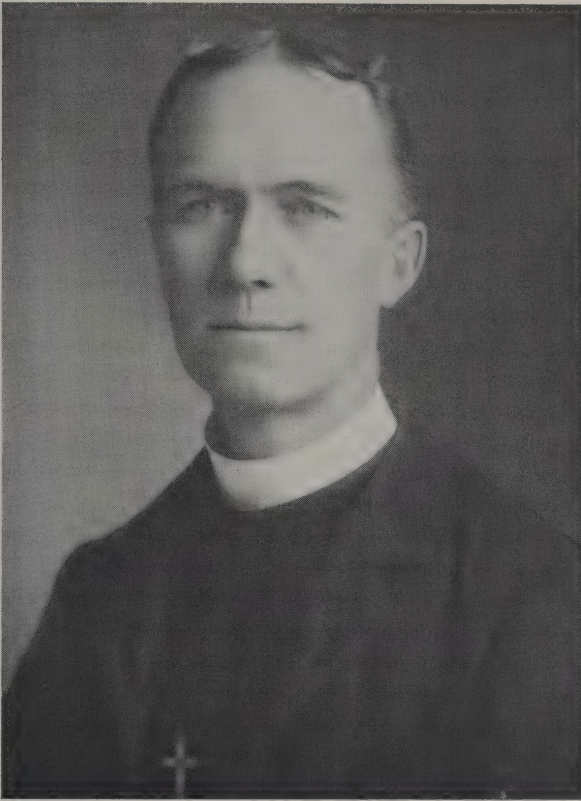
THE REVEREND
EDMUND LEAF

BY WHOSE EFFORTS
THIS CHURCH WAS ESTABLISHED
AND OVER WHICH HE PRESIDED AS RECTOR
FOR NEARLY FORTY YEARS,
UNTIL HE ENTERED INTO REST, JUNE 17TH., 1891;
IN THE 73RD. YEAR OF HIS AGE.

.

*With grateful appreciation
of his long and faithful services,
this Tablet is erected by the Congregation.*

THE REVEREND BENJAMIN FISH THOMPSON 1891-1907



The second Rector of St. Michael's Church, The Reverend Benjamin Fish Thompson, was born in Bordentown, N. J., May 1, 1857, the son of Samuel and Mary (Heyl) Thompson. He attended the Bordentown Collegiate Institute, and the Trenton Academy. For a few years he worked for the Pennsylvania Railroad, then entered the General Theological Seminary in New York, graduating in 1884. He was made Deacon by Bishop Scarborough of New Jersey, and ordained Priest by Bishop Rulison of Central Pennsylvania. He served in Keyport, N. J., in Mauch Chunk, Pa., and at St. John's Church, Ashland, Pa., before coming to Birdsboro in 1891. While Curate at St. Mark's Church, Mauch Chunk, he married Edith Chapman Stockett, by whom he had four children; Bertric, Stockett, William and Dorothy, the last two being the first children born in St. Michael's Rectory.

His pastorate at St. Michael's was marked by great activity and remarkable growth. He took a special interest in young people: or-

ganizing the first vested Boy's Choir, which he instructed himself; holding Christmas parties in the Auditorium, now Happel's Hardware Store; bringing cheer to many poor children. Many a child in Birdsboro got his first orange at one of these parties. He taught the boys how to play hockey on the old mill dam in 1896, and started a football team in Birdsboro when the Choir of St. Michael's Church played the Choir of Christ Church, Reading, on the lawn of the Clingan Estate. He was a familiar figure on a bicycle, looking up on Monday the absentees for Church the previous day. Often Mrs. Thompson accompanied him on her bicycle in his visits to the Parishioners. He was known as an "expert yachtsman" and swimmer, both talents being useful when the Choir made its annual vacation trip to Cape May, or when the Thompsons spent the summers at Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, where they occupied the DuHamel cottage.

In 1902 he enlarged the Edward Brooke Reading Room, to make it a community center for all the men and boys of Birdsboro, a function which it performed until the Y.M.C.A. and Community Memorial was established after World War I. Spent by many labors, his health became frail in 1906, and he took a "slow boat" to England that summer, in the hope that the long sea voyage and the change would effect a complete recuperation. He returned in vigorous health and the best of spirits and continued his Church and community leadership until 1907, when he resigned to become Arch-deacon of the Diocese. As such he served on all Committees and Departments.

In 1910 he left the Diocese to become Rector of Christ Church, Dover, and Priest-in-charge of St. Paul's Chapel, Camden, Delaware, where he continued until his retirement in 1939. While in Delaware, he received many honors and responsibilities, being Deputy to six General Conventions, holding office in the Province of Washington, serving as one of the Examining Chaplains of the Diocese, and President of its Standing Committee. He died in Delaware on November 5, 1950, at the age of 93. His ministry in Birdsboro stands out as a most productive period in the story of the Parish, and it is with great respect and genuine affection that he is remembered as "Father Thompson".

THE REVEREND FRANCIS YARNALL, 1907-1912

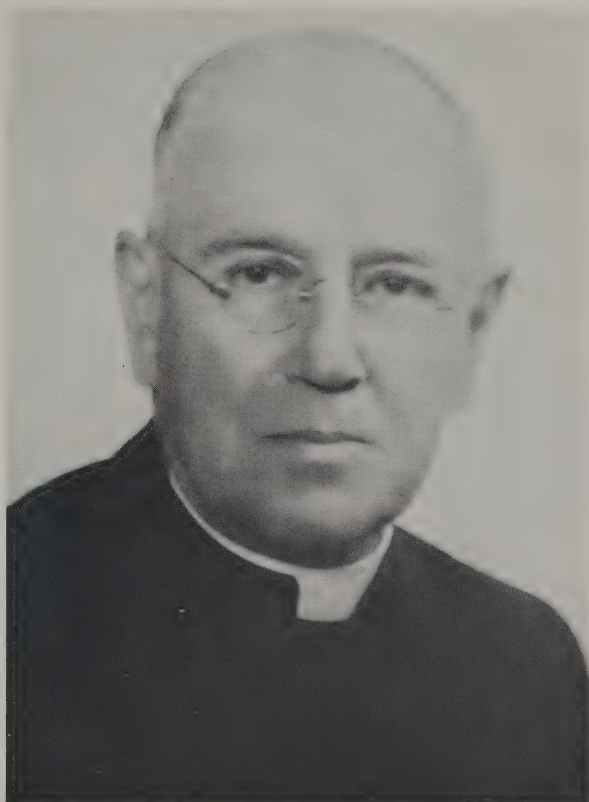


The third Rector of St. Michael's Church, The Reverend Francis Yarnall Litt.D., was born in Philadelphia, August 14, 1870, the son of the Reverend Thomas Coffin and Sara (Rose) Yarnall. It is interesting to note that the elder Yarnall was a close friend of the Reverend Edmund Leaf, and had baptized Mr. Leaf's three children, just as Mr. Leaf had baptized one of the Yarnall children. Francis Yarnall received his education at the Episcopal Academy and at the University of Pennsylvania, taking his theological work at the General Seminary, New York. After graduating from Penn, Mr. Yarnall spent a time as a teacher at St. Matthew's Military Academy, and received his Degree as Doctor of Letters from the University of Wyoming. Having completed his work at Seminary he was ordained Deacon by Bishop Talbot in St. Stephen's Church, Wilkes-Barre, and was ordered Priest in the Church of The Nativity, Bethlehem. In 1904, he married Mary Elliott Dent, by whom he had five children.

Prior to coming to Birdsboro, Dr. Yarnall had charge of Christ Church, Coudersport, Pa., which Mission became a Parish after two years of Dr. Yarnall's services. He was then called to St. Mary's Mission, Shelter Island, Long Island, and then to St. Peter's Church, Hazleton, Pa. While in Birdsboro, Dr. Yarnall, always interested in music, trained the Choir personally, and it is remembered as probably the best-balanced Choir in the history of the Parish. He was hailed as the Tennis Champion of Birdsboro, and he is remembered as an enthusiastic rooter for the Philadelphia Athletics, whom he often saw play in their victorious seasons, 1909-1911. He is still remembered for the brilliance of his conversation, the humor of his stories, and the unusual power of his preaching.

In 1913, he left Birdsboro to become Rector of Christ Church, Binghamton, New York, later serving St. Peter's, Fernandina, Florida, and St. John's, Tallahassee, Florida. His last and longest charge was as Vicar of The Epiphany Chapel, Washington, D. C., where he served for over seventeen years. He retired in 1948, and now resides at 612 Elm Avenue, Takoma Park 12, Maryland.

THE REVEREND HARRY HOWE BOGERT 1912-1923



Father Bogert, as he preferred to be called, was born in Bristol, Rhode Island, April 19, 1865, the son of Theodore Peacock and Eliza Turner (Howe) Bogert. He entered the General Seminary, New York, and completed his course in 1895, and in the same year he married Marie Nelson of Brooklyn, New York. He was ordained to the Diaconate by Bishop Clark and to the Priesthood by Bishop Coleman of Delaware. His first charge was as Rector of the Church of the Advocate, Bensonhurst, New York, and then at St. John's Church, Ellicottville, New York. For three years he served St. Matthew's Church, Union, Pa. and for a like period Emmanuel Church, Corry, Pa. He became Rector of St. Mary's-by-the-sea, Point Pleasant, N. J., in 1903, and remained there until 1912 when he came to Birdsboro. He was known as a strong preacher, but he placed his chief emphasis on his work as a Priest. During his tenure, "Mass" was said on every Sunday, every Saint's Day, and on every Thursday in the year, with daily celebrations during

Lent. He was the author of the booklet "The Confessor's Handy Guide to Prayer Book Penances". After leaving Birdsboro, he served Calvary Church, Burnt Hills, N. Y. until 1928, and he concluded his active ministry as Rector of Port Tobacco Parish, Maryland, retiring in 1935. He died April 20, 1945 in Huntington, Long Island.

THE REVEREND ARTHUR BURDETTE VOSSLER 1924-1934



Arthur B. Vossler was born in St. Johnsville, N. Y., April 2, 1875, the son of John Sanford and Mary (Lepper) Vossler. He received his education in Union College, Schenectady, N. Y., A.B. 1896, and A.M. 1899, and also studied at the State Normal School in Albany, receiving the degree of Ped. B. in 1896. For 27 years he devoted his life to teaching, being Superintendent of Schools in various New York and New Jersey communities.

During World War I he served with the Y.M.C.A., and was affiliated with the Army Intelligence Service in its education program and as a censor of letters. Upon completing this European assignment, he became Director of the Colegio Nacional de Iquitos for the Peruvian Government, 1920-1922. While in South America he made the unusual trip across the Andes on foot, down the Pitches Trail, and by canoe through the jungles of the River Amazon to its mouth in the Caribbean.

Upon returning to the United States he registered as a student

at the Philadelphia Divinity School, and acted as an assistant at Christ Church, Germantown, Pa.

He was ordained by Bishop Rhinelander, in 1923, and became Rector of St. Michael's Church in 1924, also taking St. Gabriel's Church, Douglassville under his wing in 1929. He resigned both charges in 1934, and retired from the active ministry.

He married Mabel Eugenia Torr, by whom he had three daughters. While in Birdsboro, he directed the Choir for several years and made a number of improvements to the buildings, digging out the cellars under the Sunday School Room. He was keenly interested in historical things and in the collection of antiques; and bought the farm which held the birth-place of Daniel Boone in the hope of making it an historic shrine. He was not able to keep the title long enough to profit by its later sale to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, but the credit for starting the movement by which it has become a mecca for students of our early days belongs to him.

Rev. Mr. Vossler died in Pasadena, California on June 7, 1938.

THE REVEREND DANIEL CARGILL OSBORN 1935-1938



Daniel C. Osborn was born in Honesdale, Pa., March 12, 1911, the son of Daniel Cargill and A. Mae (Thorpe) Osborn. He received his B.A. degree from Lehigh University in 1932, and his S.T.B. from the General Theological Seminary in 1937, following his graduation in 1935. He was made Deacon by Bishop Sterrett in June 1935, being advanced to the Priesthood in December of the same year. Of all those who have served St. Michael's, Mr. Osborn was the only one who actually started his ministry here, though he had served for a very short time as Deacon in St. John's Church, Hamlin, Pa. Coming to Birdsboro on October 6, 1935, Mr. Osborn also took charge of St. Gabriel's Church, Douglassville, and St. Thomas Church, Morgantown. During his tenure of office the Church was re-painted, and the Rectory put in good condition. On June 22, 1936 he married Marguerite Isabelle Henshaw, and there are three children.

In 1938 he was called to become Rector of St. James Church,

Jermyn, Pa., and St. Anne's Church, Winton, Pa. In 1941 he left the Diocese to take charge of St. Paul's Church, Pawtucket, Rhode Island and he has since remained in that Diocese, having served St. Philip's Church, West Warwick, St. Andrew's Church, Harris, and St. John the Evangelist, Newport. On February 1, 1951 he became Rector of Grace Church, Phillipsdale, Rhode Island and now resides at 391 Massasoit Avenue, East Providence, Rhode Island.

THE REVEREND IRVING ANGELL McGREW 1939-1942



Mr. McGrew, the seventh Rector of St. Michael's Church, was born in Passaic, New Jersey, October 13, 1881, the son of Benjamin E. and Ada (Loomis) McGrew. He graduated from Hobart College, Geneva, N. Y., and entered the General Theological Seminary, completing his course in 1905. He was ordained Deacon, and later Priest by Bishop Lines of Newark. In 1912 he married Edith S. Slosson of Geneva, N. Y. They had four children, three daughters and one son. His early charges were at Trinity Church, Buffalo, N. Y., St. Mary's Church, Haledon, N. J., and St. Paul's Chapel, New York City. At St. Paul's he renewed his interest in the "down and out" with whom he had been associated during his Seminary days. After serving two years in New York, he became Rector of St. Mark's Church, Newark, N. J., and later Vicar of Epiphany Chapel, Philadelphia and then Rector of Epiphany Church, 1915-1924. In 1925 prior to coming to Birdsboro, he was Alumni

Secretary for Hobart College, in Geneva, and also Chaplain and Student Pastor at the same institution.

He came to St. Michael's in June, 1939, and both he and Mrs. McGrew quickly endeared themselves to the congregation, by their understanding and sympathy. Just before leaving Geneva, their only son was killed in an automobile accident, and this cast a shadow over their lives. Mr. McGrew was only too anxious to help anyone in trouble, and many people took advantage of his consideration. He conducted his last service on July 12, 1942, and died shortly afterward, while on a summer visit to Geneva, where he was buried.

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THE REVEREND THOMAS BENNETT SMYTHE 1943 to date



The present Rector was born in County Wicklow, Ireland, March 26, 1895, the son of The Reverend William and Sarah Catherine (Bennett) Smythe. He received his education in the Central High School of Philadelphia and at the University of Pennsylvania, A.B. 1917 and A.M. 1925. For a year he taught in the Department of History in the Central High School, joining the same faculty in the Reading High School in 1918, where he continued until 1931. While a public School teacher, he was President of the Reading Teachers Association and Editor of "The Pennsylvania Teacher" for the State Teachers League. In 1924 he completed his studies for the ministry, when he was ordained Deacon by Bishop Ethelbert Talbot in Nativity Cathedral Church, Bethlehem, assuming charge of St. Luke's Church, Reading, while continuing his school duties. In 1925 Bishop Talbot advanced him to the Priesthood in Christ Church, Reading. In 1916 he married Marguerite R. Welden, and they have three sons, the eldest Thomas B. Smythe,

Jr., being Rector of All Saints Church, Tupelo, Mississippi, now on leave of absence as a Chaplain in the 31st Division, Artillery.

Mr. Smythe gave up his teaching duties in 1931 to assume charge of St. Mary's Church, Reading, where he continued until December 31, 1942. While in Reading, he was President of the Reading Ministerial Association, and Chairman of the Budget Committee of the Berks County Community Chest. He also founded a mission for Colored people, St. Philip's, which flourished under his care, using the facilities of St. Mary's Church. He came to Birdsboro on January 1, 1943, and since then has been active in all community affairs, serving terms as President of many civic organizations. He is Chairman for Christian Social Relations for the Diocese of Bethlehem, and Secretary of the Province of Washington. He has served as Deputy to General Convention, and is a member of the Executive Council of the Diocese of Bethlehem, and also of the Standing Committee of the Diocese.

He represents the Diocese on the Executive Committee of the Pennsylvania Council of Churches, and at various conferences of the Federal Council of Churches, serving as a delegate at the Constituting Convention of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. in 1950. In 1949, St. Michael's observed the 25th. Anniversary of his ordination with a Parish Dinner and presentation of gifts. Since his school days he has maintained an interest in History, being a member of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, and of the Berks County Historical Society. He is a past President of the Rotary Club of Birdsboro, and is affiliated with various Masonic bodies.

The Church

"Other foundation can no man lay than that is laid which is Jesus Christ". The first settlers of Birdsboro and the surrounding community were of English stock as evidenced by the names of Caleb Harrison, John Tribby, William Bird and Mr. Cadwalader. Later, in the 18th century, the names of Mark Bird, James Wilson, John Olds, Cadwalader Morris, Capt. John Louis Barde and Matthew Brooke, also of English origin, were leaders in the community.

The first settlers, starting in 1733, journeyed to the Swedish Church of St. Gabriel's at Morlatton, now Douglassville, for their religious worship. With the arrival in 1762 of the Rev. Alexander Murray, a missionary sent by the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, London, the services were changed to those of the Church of England, following the cession of the Swedish Colonies to Great Britain.

It does not appear that the Bardes and Brookes were too much interested in St. Gabriel's for their remains rest in the cemetery at St. John's Church in Robeson Township. To historians that has been a source of interest for St. John's in recent years has been devoted to the Lutheran and Reformed faiths. The explanation is found in the Berks & Schuylkill Journal, Reading, under date of August 16, 1851. It appears that the St. John's property was given for religious use under the date of April 29, 1791. The cornerstone of the Church was laid in 1808 with the Rev. Dr. Levi Bull, an Episcopal minister, participating in the ceremony. The original subscription paper provided equal rights to the Lutheran, Reformed, Episcopal and English Baptist faiths. The third Sunday of the month was assigned to the Episcopalians with the Rev. George Mintzer of Pottstown and St. Gabriel's preaching the Episcopal service. Mr. Beard and Mr. Thompson were the Episcopal Deacons serving as representatives on the Church Board. All collections were put into the general fund of the Church. The item includes the statement:—"From the beginning the Episcopalians worshipped there".

For the period of more than one hundred years from the founding of Birdsboro in 1740 the town was without a Church, although a small Methodist Church was built in 1839 in the "Old" Cemetery just east of the town and was named the Mt. Airy Methodist Church, served by "Circuit Riders" and local preachers.

Sensing the need of the people of the town for Church services, the Rev. Edmund Leaf, Rector of Christ Church, Pottstown, and St. Gabriel's, Douglassville, started holding services in the community. It has always been recognized that St. Gabriel's was the Mother Church of St. Michael's due to the founding of the Parish by the Rev. Mr. Leaf. But he also served Christ Church, Pottstown, and was in residence

there. When the St. John's background is considered all three Churches deserve a share of credit in the founding of St. Michael's.

In "Now and Then," an occasional paper, Christmas 1872, the Rev. Mr. Leaf gave the following version of the founding of St. Michael's:—"Before this Church was organized a monthly service was held for several years, first in the school house at Mt. Airy and afterward in the school building at Birdsboro. There were at that time very few persons in or near the place who had been accustomed to our mode of Worship." "We then had no thought of forming a Parish or of building a Church. At length, however, the prospect grew somewhat brighter and it was determined to build a Church and establish permanent services."

(The Mt. Airy school house still stands one mile east of Birdsboro along the river road; the Birdsboro building was known as "Bunker Hill" and was located where the late George W. Harrison built the residence now used as the home of the Birdsboro Post of the American Legion at No. 445 Main street.)

Building Started

The following items have appeared in the Berks & Schuylkill Journal:—April 26, 1851, "The erection of a splendid Church, with a lofty tower, and a Bell in it as large and sonorous as any in any of your Reading buildings; and when fairly hung and swung, it will summon within the sacred edifice—if not so many—certainly as handsome, accomplished and amiable Belles as grace any of your Churches."

September 6, 1851, "Preliminary arrangements are making for the erection of an Episcopal Church, toward which some \$1200 or \$1500 have already been subscribed, and a beautiful lot of ground presented by the Messrs. Brooke. The Rev. Mr. Leaf, of Pottstown, preaches at stated intervals, in one of the School houses nearby, until a more convenient building is erected."

The Church was nearing completion when the Journal reported on Jan. 1, 1853:—"The Church is to be elegantly furnished—the ladies have taken that matter under their especial charge."

The deed for the Church property is under the date of February 11, 1853:—Received by Evan Rigg and Caleb Harrison—issued by Edward Brooke, George Brooke and Elizabeth M. Brooke—with the nominal price of one dollar faithfully paid—the property location in Birdsboro. The real location was in Union Township for Birdsboro was not incorporated until 20 years later. The street location was Old street, formerly known as the Morgantown road and the Haycreek Road. The side street was opened at a later date and had the name of Schackamaxon street. The Borough ordinances changed those names to Mill and Church streets.

The Church was duly consecrated on February 12, 1853, by Bishop Alonzo Potter, other Priests present and assisting in the service being



1853

Rev. Edmund Leaf, Rev. T. B. Flower, Morgantown, Rev. S. Durborrow, Phoenixville, and the Rev. M. C. Lightner, Reading. The entire Church, including the gallery in the back of the Church, was crowded and many were unable to get inside.

The Rev. Mr. Leaf includes the following version of the building of the Church:—"The Church lot was the joint gift of the three members of the Brooke family, from whom also the Church received subscriptions amounting to eight hundred dollars, together with the organ, the bell, and the wall and iron railing on the front line of the lot". "The cost of the Church was twenty-six hundred dollars, toward the payment of which besides the amount above specified, eight hundred dollars was collected in Philadelphia, and liberal contributions received from Messrs. Rees Evans, D. J. Lincoln, Levi E. Hook, Jacob Hook, Henry S. Kupp, George Knabb and others of Birdsboro, Reading, Pottstown and Douglassville." A service was conducted every Sunday by either the Rev. Mr. Leaf or the Rev. Aaron Christman. Surely those services must have been conducted in the day-time for lighting devices

of that time consisted mostly of tallow candles. A stove was placed near the lectern and the fuel consisted of wood with anthracite coal coming into use a little later.

January 17, 1852, "On January 8th a meeting was held at the Birdsboro Hotel on the subject of the erection of an Episcopal Church when George Brooke, Levi Hook and Col. Henry S. Kupp were appointed the building committee.

May 8, 1852, "Episcopal Church to be started in several weeks". The work on the foundations must have progressed rapidly for the cornerstone was laid at 2½ o'clock May 30th with appropriate ceremonies. Rev. Mr. Leaf, Pottstown, and Rev. M. C. Lightner, Reading, conducted the services. It was a beautiful Whit-Sunday attracting an attendance of 1000 persons from Reading, Pottstown, Morgantown and local people. Hucksters appeared to vend their wares but were promptly suppressed. It was announced that the estimated cost of the Church was between \$2500 and \$3000 and cash collections on the ground were said to have been quite liberal.

Corner Stone Laid

It is always interesting to know just what articles have been deposited in corner-stones and everybody is eager to inspect the contents when one of them is re-opened. A pencilled list of the things deposited in St. Michael's cornerstone records the following:—"Holy Bible published by Lippincott, Grambo & Co., Philadelphia; Prayer Book, Church Register 1852; Journal of Convention 1850; Banner of the Cross, Philadelphia, May 29, 1852; Reading Gazette & Democrat, May 29, 1852; Berks & Schuylkill Journal, May 29, 1852; dime—1852; half dime—1851; and three cent piece—1852".

June 26, 1852:—"Bishop Potter preached in the School House, Birdsboro, Sunday evening June 20th".

With George Brooke, Architect, and Levi E. Hook, Builder, working as an experienced and efficient team, the work was pushed for on July 24th:—"St. Michael's Church is going up slowly but surely and Substantially." By Sept. 11th the Church was under roof and ready for the plasterers. Dec. 11th:—"ready for the painters, windows are of colored ground glass, slate roof. The painting was done by George Seiling, Reading. The Church was completed Jan. 29, 1853. There was some difference of opinion on the type of architecture for it was first stated to be Roman-Gothic, then just Gothic, ending with Norman-Gothic, "Finest of it's size in State".

The Church Wardens were Rees Evans and Joseph R. Kerst and Vestrymen—Edward Brooke, George Brooke, Levi E. Hook, David J. Lincoln and George Brinley.

It does not appear that the Rev. Mr. Leaf had anything to do with the work of building the Church, but it took a resourceful man to in-

terest the actual builders of the Church for they, quite often, sought his advice in order to include the refinement found in the beautiful sand-stone edifice.

With the completion of the Church it was the Rector's job to interest the people of the community in forming a congregation. One of his first acts was to start a Church Register and the first entries covered the Baptism of Edward Brooke, David Connor, David Jone Lincoln, Eliza Brooke Evans, and Sallie Jane Evans on June 5, 1853; confirmations by the Rt. Rev. Alonzo Potter July 10, 1853 of George Brooke, Edward Brooke, David J. Lincoln, Eliza Evans, Sallie J. Evans, David Connor, Rebecca Connor, Isaac Detweiler, Hannah Detweiler, William Maury, Sarah Beard, Hannah Knabb, Daniel Knabb, Hannah Hook and Elizabeth Fisher; the marriage by Rev. Edmund Leaf, Nov. 14, 1851, of Henry Hook of Birdsboro and Catherine Klink, Union Township; and the burial July 4, 1854 of Henry Nagle aged 16 months. The congregation consisted of 25 families, 100 adults and 40 children.

The first report to appear in the record of the Diocesan Convention was made by St. Gabriel's in 1852 but the 1853 report was made by St. Michael's.

For the next twenty years most of the available information covers the activities of the Rev. Mr. Leaf. He resigned the Rectorship of Christ Church, Pottstown, February 27, 1858; on July 15, 1858, he preached an open air service at 3:00 P. M., on South 7th street, Reading; in January 1859 he joined with Edward Brooke and John Bland in examining the pupils of the Philomathean Institute. There is a newspaper report of the Confirmation service by the Rt. Rev. S. Bowman, D.D., Assistant Bishop on February 26, 1860. On Feb. 2, 1861, the Rev. Mr. Leaf delivered a lecture on education in the Birdsboro School House; and on Dec. 4th he attended the Ordination to the Order of the Priesthood of Rev. A. G. Cummins, at Christ Church, Reading. That was followed Sept. 6, 1863, with an address at the re-laying of the corner-stone of Christ Church, Reading. He participated in the re-dedication of the same Church Oct. 24, 1864.

Civil War Activities

During the time of the Civil War the congregation was reduced by a number of the men serving in the army. George B. Kupp was killed before Petersburg, Va., and the Rev. Mr. Leaf conducted the funeral service Nov. 13, 1864, from his home in the stone farm-house to the right of the road just east of Birdsboro. The Church contributed \$41.87 to the Sanitary Commission, Phila.; Individuals and other organizations contributed to that fund to conduct an exposition of the arts and sciences, manufactures and other things of interest for the benefit of the soldiers.

"By their fruits ye shall know them" proved true in the work of

the Rev. Mr. Leaf, for he received a call to Immanuel Church, Phila., in 1864 but did not accept.

He was considerably inconvenienced in December 1865 when his horse was stolen from his stable in Pottstown. A reward of \$20.00 was offered for the return of the animal.

Major Henry S. Kupp died Jan. 1, 1866, and Rev. Mr. Leaf officiated at the funeral. He was one of the builders of St. Michael's and one of the most prominent citizens of southern Berks County.

Sunday July 15, 1866, Bishop Lee, of Delaware, substituting for Bishop Stevens, who was ill, confirmed 10 members. Twenty-two years previous Bishop Lee had ordained the Rev. Edmund Leaf.

Through the efforts of the Rev. Mr. Leaf the Cemetery was established and he officiated at the first burial, that of Daniel W. Knabb Aug. 31, 1867.

The founding of the Cemetery resulted in the Church being incorporated because, in the words of the Rector:—"For the sake of permanency and security the title of the property is vested in the Corporation of St. Michael's Church, Birdsboro."

Hiester Clymer, Attorney, prepared the application for a charter of incorporation and presented it to the Court Feb. 5, 1867. W. I. Woodward, President Judge, approved the charter April 8, 1867, and it was recorded the 15th of April. The official name of the corporation is "The Rector, Church Wardens and Vestrymen of St. Michael's Church, Birdsboro." Signatures on the application are:—Wardens—David Connor and Jos. R. Kerst; Vestrymen—Edward Brooke, Levi E. Hook, Rees Evans, David J. Lincoln and George Brooke.

The construction of the Wilmington & Birdsboro R. R. started in 1867 and resulted in an increase in the population which was added to in 1868 by the newly organized Birdsboro Iron Foundry Company. A number of new names appear in the Church Register under these dates and foremost among them is that of the Young family whose members were active in the work of the Church for 75 years.

The Church suffered quite a loss in the death of Elizabeth M. Brooke Clymer, wife of Hiester Clymer, whose funeral services were conducted by the Rev. Mr. Leaf October 12, 1870.

Sunday School Built

The publication of "Now and Then", an occasional paper, Christmas 1872, by the Rev. Edmund Leaf covered historical and up to date news of St. Michael's and St. Gabriel's Parishes. The building of the Chapel, also referred to as the Sunday School House, was started in 1872 and completed early in the next spring. The entire cost of the building was contributed by the Messrs. Edward and George Brooke. Previous to the building of the Sunday School building the sessions of the Sunday School were held in the Church and the Rev. Mr. Leaf

referred to the Church being used as a school house. The Church was badly in need of repairs, both inside and out, and the estimated cost was \$600.00. Only necessary repairs were made at that time for the Church "Fathers" were dreaming of more extensive improvements in the not too distant future.

On the afternoon of Easter Day, April 5, 1874, Bishop Howe visited St. Michael's for the rite of confirmation. In the words of the Rector:—"The entire service proved of exceeding interest and solemnity, and was made especially memorable to the Parish by the fact, that then was first seen the beautiful window, which had been put in its place over the holy table, during the previous week. This was the gift of the Hon. Hiester Clymer, M. C. from the district, and is a memorial to his beloved wife and daughter and infant son.

The window is triple, exhibiting three scenes, which yet are all closely associated together—the storied lights and shades telling silently their sad tale of a three-fold bereavement. The middle design may be taken to represent our Lord directing the mother's thoughts to the land where there is no parting. On the right is seen an angel ascending, and carrying an infant above the dwellings of men to the better and enduring mansion. The left design is that of Mercy's Dream, a ministering spirit imparting hope and confidence to a beautiful little girl, reclining in an attitude of calm repose, waiting for her crown and the summons of Him, who saith, 'Suffer little children to come unto Me'".

The Rectory was built during the years of 1877-78 at a cost of \$6,500 and presented to the Church by the Messrs. Edward and George Brooke. The building is of red sandstone with white sandstone trim and harmonizes with the Church and Chapel buildings. To provide room for the Rectory it was necessary to remove a double frame house to the opposite side of the street. The ladies of the Congregation furnished three of the rooms and the Rev. Mr. Leaf removed from his Pottstown residence to the new Rectory. A stable was provided to house his horse and carriage.

Edward Brooke, one of the founders and benefactors of St. Michael's, following a short period of illness, died on Christmas Day 1878 in his early "sixties". His funeral was held from the Church with 500 mourners in attendance. The Choir sang the hymn—"I will not live away" with the Rector conducting the service assisted by Bishop Howe, Rev. John Lundy, Phila., and Rev. Dr. Edwards, Reading. A booklet, "In Memoriam" was published and contained an account of his life, Resolutions of the Church Vestry and civic organizations and the Memorial Service conducted Sunday Jan. 5, 1879, when the Rev. Edmund Leaf preached on the topic of "The mourners go about the streets".

On Jan. 31, 1880, the Rev. Mr. Leaf started a series of lectures in the Church on the words of the Apostles Creed. Starting in June he held open air meetings on Sunday evenings throughout the summer in

the woods at the part of town known as Mexico. During August the roof of the Chapel was considerably damaged by a large limb falling from the old Sycamore tree located at the western end during a severe storm.

Early in 1882 Mrs. George Brooke presented the Church with the pipe organ costing \$1,200. (The organ has been improved from time to time so that its value has appreciated materially). It was presented as a memorial to Mrs. Brooke's parents and bears the inscription:—"To the glory of God and in memory of John H. and Margaret B. Irwin". The organ occupied the southeast corner of the Nave near the Pulpit. The dedication service was held Wednesday evening February 15 with the Choir of Christ Cathedral assisting the singing.

The year of 1884 was a memorable year for St. Michael's starting January 2 with a lecture on the "Battle of Gettysburg" by Rev. A. C. Tortat. The news of March 19 reported that some well known rowdies threw down the iron fence surrounding the yard and Police Officers were on the look-out for the rascals.

Church Enlarged

The long deferred repairs to the Church started to be realized by July when George Brooke was reported to have several carts and quite a number of men engaged in excavating for the foundations of several wings (now Transepts). Mr. Brooke, again, was in charge of the plans with Contractor Levi H. Focht doing the work. The tower was added at that time and Slater Bowers of Baumstown covered the steeple with colored slate and topped the steeple with a large gold-plated cross. On the evening of Jan. 3, 1885, the large bell pealed forth and had an excellent tone.

Rev. Benj. F. Thompson preached a historical sermon in 1892 in which there was an excellent story on the improvements of 1884. "The Gallery was removed and in its place the Oriel window was inserted. The walls were studded and replastered and wainscoted, gas pipes being first put in. The ceiling timbers were cased; the windows filled with cathedral stained glass; steam heat was introduced; the Church newly carpeted throughout and new pews put in. A private gas plant was placed in the cellar. (The acetylene gas replaced the kerosene lamps). The organ was moved into the base of the tower and the old bell that hung in the stone turret at the northern end of the Church was used to make part of the new bell by a Wilmington, Del., firm. The inscriptions on the new bell:—"Presented by the E. & G. Brooke Iron Co., 1884, and made in part of the old bell presented by Edward Brooke, 1854". On the other side it reads:—

"Now be it mine the call to ring
O come and worship God your King
And to His court your tribute bring
Of Prayer and Praise your offering".

"Its sound shall be heard when we go into the Holy Place before the Lord". The interior painting and decorating were by Frank Furniss, Phila., Pa., who used some original ideas by placing the symbols of the Crucifixion above the corners of the doors. He molded the wreath of thorns from branches of an osage bush and used the osage (Mock) orange for the sponge. The cost of the improvements was well over twelve thousand dollars and was met by the members of the Brooke families. Church services were held in the Chapel during the period of the building. The restored and beautiful Church was consecrated by the Rt. Rev. M. A. DeWolfe Howe, May 31, 1885. During the next several years a number of memorials were added and they are recorded at the end of this part of the Church history.

Pew Holders 1885

All sittings in the Church were declared free but pews were assigned as follows:—No. 7—Deam and Mrs. Zieber; 10—Geo. W. Knabb; 12—E. K. & C. K. Rhoads; 13—James S. Brusstar; 14—Rhoads; 15—Samuel Harrison; 16—Adam Young; 17—George W. Harrison; 18—H. A. Kissinger; 19—Annie Bunn; 20—Lincoln; 21—Geo. Brooke; 22—Miss Evans; 23—M. E. Brooke; 24—Maria T. Clingan; 25—D. R. Clymer; 26—The Rector; (West Transcept) 28—Charles B. Clingan; 27—Hook-Fritz; 29—A. Lincoln Hook; 30—James King; 31—Jos. R. Kerst; 32—M. F. Fisher; 33—George Coxe; 34—Altenderfer; 36—Daniel Moore & Mrs. Henry; (East Transcept) 37—Miss Barde; 39—Odenath; 43—H. B. Brusstar. The numbers started from the north end of the Nave with the odd numbers on the east side and the even numbers on the west side.

The first record available of a Vestry meeting is one held April 26, 1886, and records the election of George Brooke, Edward Brooke, Geo. W. Harrison, James King, H. G. Hunter, William Brusstar and William K. Young. May 6 thieves entered the Rectory stealing valuable heirlooms including a number of pieces of silver dinner service.

The Church Communion Vessels were taken care of at one of the Brooke homes and it was the duty of Miss Mary Alderman to convey them back and forth when needed. Enos Alderman served as Sexton from the very beginning of the Church and was succeeded by Thomas G. Deam around 1885. Lizzie Painter kept the Church clean and dusted for many years.

In July 1887 the triple memorial window in the Chancel was remodeled, a circular stained glass window, seven feet in diameter, was placed in the north gable end and a triangular stained glass window placed in the west wall of the Chancel. Stalls for the Choir were located in the eastern Transcept. Again George Brooke paid for the improvements. L. H. Focht was the contractor.

Hard work over many years began to be reflected in the health of



CHRISTMAS 1888

the good Rector so that he spent quite some time at Lake George, N. Y., in an effort to regain his old time hardihood. The writing in the Church Register reflected the result of age and another person made the entries for several years. On Oct. 22, 1889, a Dr. Agnew performed an operation on the throat of the Rev. Mr. Leaf and he recovered and conducted the services on December 21. During his absence the services were in charge of his son—E. Bowman Leaf. June 12, 1891, he was again taken ill and Dr. Brooke and Dr. Luther, of Reading, held a consultation with Dr. James Lincoln but he passed away June 17. Thus ended a period of over forty years service as Rector of St. Michael's.

The funeral service was held in the Church on June 20 with Bishop Rulison of Bethlehem and Rev. John Long, Reading, officiating. He was buried in St. Michael's Cemetery which he founded. Mrs. Leaf survived him for little more than a year and was buried beside him. A large Memorial Tablet was placed on the wall near the Lectern. The Memorial service was held in the Church on Nov. 19 with eulogies by Bishop Howe, Dr. Orrick, Reading, Dr. Abel, Chaplain of the Church Home and Rev. B. F. Thompson, the new Rector of St. Michael's.

Between June and October Lay Reader Services were conducted by E. Bowman Leaf, with the Holy Communion celebrated each month by Rev. John Long except on August fourth when the Rev. R. H. McKim, Washington, D. C., conducted the service.

Probably the most outstanding and elaborate wedding to take place

in St. Michael's was that of Blair Lee, Washington, D. C., and Annie Clymer Brooke, daughter of the late Edward Brooke, on Thursday October 1, 1891. The ceremony was performed by the Rt. Rev. M. A. D. Howe, Bishop of the Diocese. The procession was led by the Choir of Christ Church, Reading, followed by the Brides-maids:—Helen Baer, Reading, Miss Warder, Washington, D. C., and Miss Harriet Blaine, daughter of James G. Blaine; George Brooke, uncle of the bride, gave her away. Among the many guests were George F. Baer, Attorney and President of the Reading Railroad, George R. Roberts, President of the Pennsylvania Railroad and the new Rector of St. Michael's, Rev. Benj. F. Thompson. Outstanding among the floral decorations was an arch twelve feet high over the Altar railing composed of spruce and one thousand white dahlias. Special trains were operated on the Penna. R. R., for the convenience of visiting guests who were conveyed to the Church in phaetons.

The Rev. Benjamin Fish Thompson accepted the Rectorship of St. Michael's at a meeting of the Vestrymen held in the office of the Brooke Iron Co., located at the southern end of Mill street. Mr. George Brooke was a bit surprised when the Rev. Mr. Thompson demanded a contract and when he stated that he would be responsible for the religious services and the business of the Church was to be conducted by the Vestry. It was not long before he was attending to both.

His first service was that of October fifth and he was in residence Nov. 1st. The Congregation greeted the Thompsons with a "house-warming" on November third.

Elm Trees Have Names

During the early spring of 1892 the Rector supervised the planting of the two elm trees between the Church and the Reading Room. The one next to the Reading Room was planted by the men of the Vestry and was named "St. Michael" and the one next to the Church was planted by the men of the newly organized Choir and was given the name "St. Gabriel". Both trees are beautiful to behold.

The new Rector expressed a desire to organize a vested Choir but that would require an extended Chancel and Choir stalls. The generosity of George Brooke made that possible. The new addition was staked off to extend the Chancel ten feet to the sidewalk in April of 1892. Mr. Geissler, Church Architect, New York, planned the interior of the extension and the construction was done by the firm of L. H. Focht. The Rector's description of the improvements:—"During the summer of 1892 a new Chancel, six feet wider and ten feet deeper than the old Chancel, was built and presented to the Church by Mr. George Brooke. The cost was \$3,500. This permitted the introduction of Choir stalls and a Vested Choir. The tower wall was cut through and the organ key-board, formerly in the Transept, was put into its present position. At the same

time, the present Chancel Window, and the three panelled window now in the Transept were exchanged. The new Chancel was consecrated by Bishop Rulison Thursday Nov. 10, 1892."

The Edward Brooke Window was placed in the Transept September 1887.

It was an opportune time for the meeting of the Archdeaconry to be held at St. Michael's. The Rector provided breakfast for more than twenty visiting clergy and they were entertained at luncheon at the home of George Brooke. The improvements made it necessary to enlarge the Gothic arch and the attaching of the Sacristy to the west wall of the Chancel.

The Rector sponsored a two weeks' vacation for 32 Fresh Air children from New York in the summer of 1893. In small groups they were placed in private families in town and on nearby farms. At Thanksgiving a collection of groceries was sent to the Church Home, Jonestown. At Christmas greens were gathered and tied in strings under the supervision of members of the Alderman family for decorating the Church. The first Midnight Service was held that year.

Jan. 3, 1894, he started to take subscriptions for the Church paper and the first reference of the Twelfth Night Social appeared. Feb. 14, he ordered green palm leaves from the Sea Islands of Georgia for Palm Sunday—\$2.50. Lenten services were held daily at 4:15 o'clock for children, Wednesday and Thursday nights for grown-ups. During Holy Week daily services were held for working men starting at 12:03 Noon and lasting seven minutes. At times more than one hundred were in attendance. Every night services were held in the Church without Choir music but there was congregational singing. On Easter Day a new Processional Cross in memory of Charles Young, recently deceased member of the Choir, was used for the first time.

The annual meeting of the Vestry for the election of officers was held on April sixth in the office of the E. & G. Brooke Iron Co., Mill & Office Sts. The Rector appointed as Senior Warden, William K. Young; Henry K. Harrison was elected Accounting Warden and Prof. Henry G. Hunter, Secretary.

Church Ushers

Ushers were first referred to May 23, 1894. They were:—Albert Fritz, George Lacey and Harry E. Hart. The Annual Report for 1893 showed 128 Communicants and a total of 230 services during the year. During the Rector's absence on vacation and at other times he provided the supply of other Episcopal Ministers and E. Bowman Leaf, Lay Reader.

The regular Even Song services during the summer months were held at 6:30 o'clock with the omission of the sermon. In August the Rector continued his plea for the payment of the Diocesan Assessment. At

Thanksgiving groceries to the value of \$36.16 and \$56.30 in cash were sent to the Church Home. The offering on Christmas Day amounted to \$18.24 and was for the aged and infirm Clergy.

The members of the Patriotic Order Sons of America attended a service on March 13, 1895. A report was made at that time that the Missionary Offering had averaged fifty dollars for the past four years. On Easter Monday the Vestrymen elected were:—George Brooke, Edward Brooke, Geo. W. Harrison, H. K. Harrison, Wm. Deb. Brusstar, Wm. K. Young and H. G. Hunter. The meetings of the Vestry were not held at regular times, probably due to a lack of business, but the members were closely associated and made impromptu decisions when necessary.

The veterans of the Civil War associated in the Grand Army of the Republic attended a patriotic service May 24, 1895. During the month of June the Rector served for two weeks as Chaplain of St. Margaret's House, Cape May. The Diocese of Philadelphia supported that House so that the poor women and children of Philadelphia could enjoy short vacations at the seashore.

Sept. 10, Rev. James B. May, resident of Birdsboro and the former Pastor of St. Paul's Reformed Church, was certified by the Rev. Mr. Thompson as having been Confirmed as an applicant to be admitted as a candidate for Holy Orders. He was Ordained to the Diaconate Jan. 21, 1896, and appointed as Assistant at Trinity Church, Pottsville. His wife was Mary Kern, School Teacher, Birdsboro.

At the election of Vestrymen in 1896, Robert E. Brooke was elected in the place of Wm. Deb. Brusstar. Wm. K. Young and Harry E. Hart were elected Lay Delegates to the Diocesan Convention to be held at Harrisburg.

In September a new carpet was placed in the Chancel, the carpet in the Nave was repaired, the 1892 Hymnals placed in the pews, and the Church thoroughly cleaned by volunteers in preparation for the meeting of the Archdeaconry on October 5th and 6th. That meeting was attended by 19 Clergy.

For some time the Rector had been complaining that there were too many "coppers" in the collection plates. Those complaints seem to have resulted in more nickels and dimes for a time but one week he remarked that "Alexander the Coppersmith was back in the Church again". During the middle of the "nineties" times were hard.

As a result of the condition of the time many children of the community were denied the customary good things at Christmas 1896. So the Rector organized and managed a Grand Christmas Entertainment held in the Birdsboro Auditorium on Wednesday night December 30. That was a community event for all children and 812 of them were in attendance. Every child was presented with a box of candy and two apples that had been donated by the business men and citizens of town.

Members of all the Churches assisted with the entertainment and other work.

The members of Neversink Lodge I. O. O. F. attended an evening service on Feb. 14, 1897. The Rector announced that he would not make any social calls during Lent and that visiting Clergy would have charge of the mid-week services.

Electric Lights Installed

May 20, 1897, the Vestry decided to modernize the lighting system by introducing electric lights in all the buildings. Paul D. Millholland, Reading, was awarded the contract to install the wiring and 60 incandescent lights. At that time the electric current was available only at night so that the day-time services continued to depend on the light from the windows.

The Christmas decorations for 1897 were in charge of committees for the several sections of the Church and definite dates were set for securing the greens, tying them, and putting them in place.

At a Vestry meeting held Feb. 9, 1898, resolutions were adopted on the death of Henry G. Hunter, Secretary of the Vestry. They were signed by Benj. F. Thompson, Rector; Wm. K. Young and H. K. Harrison, Wardens; and George Brooke, Edward Brooke, Robert E. Brooke, George W. Harrison and Noel B. Whitman, Vestrymen. Mr. Whitman was elected Secretary to succeed Prof. Hunter. The Vestry announced new Pew arrangements with five persons to the Pew; Pews reserved until the services begin and then open to visitors; during evening and special services the Pews were to be open to everyone.

On Palm Sunday was held the Annual Procession of the Palms with the Rector singing the solo part of the anthem "The Palms".

The Rt. Rev. Ethelbert Talbot, Bishop of the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania, made his first visit to St. Michael's on April 28. Following the service a reception was held in the Sunday School Room.

"Maine Memorial Day" was celebrated throughout the country on May 8, 1898. St. Michael's held the service in memory of the men lost in the explosion and sinking of the Battleship Maine in Havana Harbor on February 15, 1898. The Church was full and overflowed into the Sunday School Room. The Patriotic Orders and the G. A. R. were in attendance. Patriotic music was used by the Choir accompanied by Frank Kline and several hand-men on band instruments. The Rector delivered a patriotic sermon.

About that time the members seemed to be remiss in making their contributions so Albert Fritz volunteered personally to see all members to secure regular contributions. Generosity prevailed at Thanksgiving when the contributions to the Church Home amounted to \$128.69 in cash and groceries.

In 1899 the Rector announced that four visiting Clergy and two

Bishops would take the midweek services during Lent. On May 10 he complained of lack of funds to pay small items which he was compelled to pay out of his own pocket. The Annual Report showed 126 Communicants and 307 services during the year.

There was no better criterion on the use of the Church than the fact that the carpet was worn out in the fall of 1899 and Miss Mary Alderman collected \$151.75 of the total of \$175.00 needed for the new carpet.

December 6, a new purple Dossal Cloth, or curtain for back of the Altar, was the gift and handiwork of Mrs. Henry K. Harrison.

It was about the turn of the century when Horace Evans, a member of an old St. Michael's family, Choir boy and a short time Lay Reader, left this community. The general public knew little of his after life but he studied for the ministry and was the Rector of a Church in one of the middle western states.

The 12th Night Social of 1900 was attended by 100 members and their friends. Nagle's Orchestra provided the music for the entertainment and dancing.

The Rev. Mr. McElwee conducted the services during the Rector's absence on a two week's vacation to Cape May during the summer of 1900.

During the Lenten season of 1901 the services were conducted by five visiting Clergymen. On May 31 Vestryman Wm. C. Garret removed from town and was succeeded on the Vestry by Albert Fritz. A memorial service on the death of President William McKinley was held on September 15. The Reading Archdeaconery meetings were held at St. Michael's November 11-12. Bishop Talbot and 24 Clergy were in attendance.

January 29, 1902, Bishop Talbot requested \$129.00 of St. Michael's for Missionary Work. The Parish lost a devoted and hard working member on February 22 in the death of George W. Harrison. He was a Vestryman, Treasurer and Superintendent of the Cemetery for many years. Harry E. Hart was elected May first to succeed Mr. Harrison as a member of the Vestry. November 19 the use of weekly envelopes was started for all members of the congregation. The annual contribution to the Church Home on Thanksgiving amounted to \$208.30. The Rector was a member of the Board of Directors and devoted much time to the work of the Home.

Under the date of April 13, 1904 "A beautiful Oak and Brass Credence shelf was presented in memory of the late Geo. W. Harrison". Thomas G. Deam, Sexton for nearly twenty years, died April 30 and was succeeded by John Mast. August 31, the Rev. David Weidner, a native of Birdsboro, conducted the morning and evening services. The Rev. Herbert Burk, founder of the Valley Forge Chapel, sent a letter of appreciation for St. Michael's contribution to the building fund. A

new carpet was placed in the Chancel in September. November 30, a set of batteries and necessary wiring was installed for lighting the Church on dark mornings. The public electric service was available only at night. The old kerosene bracket lamps, located in the Chancel for the convenience of the Choir, fell victims to the modern improvements and were removed.

In 1905, the Rev. James B. May, Rector of St. Barnabas, Reading, conducted one of the mid-week Lenten services. Harry E. Hart, Clifton Hook and Elmer J. Shanaman were appointed ushers for the Easter services. July 14, the Consecration of the Baptistry took place. It was erected in memory of the Rev. Edmund Leaf and presented by his son, E. Bowman Leaf. The designers and makers were—Geissler & Son, New York. The old Font was of historic interest to the Leaf family and they claimed it.

July 26, the Memorial Altar and Reredos of carved oak were installed and they were Consecrated by Bishop Talbot Oct. 24. J. & R. Lamb, New York, were the makers. Mrs. George Brooke presented them in memory of her parents.

St. Michael's seemed to be popular with the members of the Arch-deaconry for they returned for another meeting in October. Something



EASTER 1906

out of the ordinary for St. Michael's happened at Thanksgiving when the Church was decorated with corn stalks, ears of corn, pumpkins, etc.

In 1906, elaborate arrangements were made for the celebration of 12th Night by the appointment of committees on all details. The attendance was 125 persons.

On April 25, "a beautiful Prayer Book bound in Red Morocco, was the Easter gift of John Mast in Memory of William Seigfried".

Vestry meetings were few and far apart but there is an account of one held May third at the home of Mr. George Brooke when Robert E. Brooke and Wm. K. Young were elected Delegates to the Annual Convention. On May 20, the Rev. Mr. Thompson preached his 15th Annual Sermon which emphasized \$4,979.80 Parish and \$1,144.21 Diocesan expenditures. The annual Baccalaureate service of the local High School was held in St. Michael's on May 27th.

Both the Rector and Mrs. Thompson were in need of a change of surroundings to improve their declining health and they took a voyage to Europe returning on October 6. A surprise Welcome Home Party was held in the Reading Room with Bishop Talbot at the head of 200 gathered to welcome them. There was a general social time with refreshments and music by Charles Henry's String Orchestra.

The Rev. Mr. Thompson Resigns

In 1907, the members of St. Michael's and the entire community was surprised and shocked when the following item appeared in the Rector's column of the Birdsboro Dispatch on January 18:—"The Rector of St. Michael's was re-elected Archdeacon for two years at the recent meeting in Reading, and also appointed, General Missionary of the Diocese, by Bishop Talbot. If he accepts this latter position it will necessitate his resignation of the Rectorship of St. Michael's." He presented his resignation February first, removed to Reading May 6, and conducted his last service on June second. There was nothing that pleased him more than a Church full of people and a special service such as the one held shortly before he left St. Michael's. That service was held Thursday night May 16 with the Choir, accompanied by the 46th Regimental Band, providing the music and Bishop Talbot preached on "Civic Righteousness" to a Church full of people that included the Boro Officials and members of the Friendship Fire Company.

For the next several months the services were held only in the morning, sometime omitted, with visiting Clergy from Douglassville and Morgantown in charge and the Choir continuing under the direction of the organist, Cyrus G. Henry.

The Rev. Francis Yarnall assumed the Rectorship December first and both he and Mrs. Yarnall were honored with a reception in the Reading Room in conjunction with the annual celebration of 12th Night, 1908. The Vestry records are not available for that time so that

there is a lack of information for a number of years. The sermons and music were excellent and the Church well filled at all the services. Wm. K. Young used to tease the Rev. Mr. Yarnall about his fine sermons by saying that he got them out of the barrel where his Clergyman father had stored them in Philadelphia. He delivered a remarkable address at the Soldiers Monument in St. Michael's Cemetery on May 30, 1908.

The Rev. Francis Yarnall resigned the Rectorship of St. Michael's Jan. 17, 1911.

He returned to officiate at the funeral of Mr. George Brooke in January, 1912. Mr. Brooke was active in the work of the Church from the very beginning, a period of 61 years, and his loss as a Vestryman was a loss to the entire congregation. His sons, Edward and George, presented the marble, tile floor of the Church in memory of Mr. and Mrs. George Brooke. It was Consecrated Dec. 8, 1912.

February 1, 1912, the Rev. Harry Howe Bogert became the fourth Rector of St. Michael's. All the property and buildings were in excellent condition so the Rector had to concern himself with conducting the services and pleasing the congregation. Some of the members quietly resented the tendency of changing the services to that of the so-called "High Church". Harry E. Hart, a Vestryman, fell into disfavor by expressing his opinion and his name was omitted at the election of the Vestrymen on March 24, 1913. The other members of the Vestry resented that action and presented a copy of the Church Charter to prove that the election was not conducted according to the terms thereof. That resulted in the election being declared null and void with all the members of the Vestry remaining in office.

George Brooke 3rd succeeded his grandfather as a member of the Vestry and Lloyd Lykens assumed the position of Sexton on the death of John Mast.

The Church heater, located in the cellar of the Church, had been flooded several times and was gradually wearing out, it finally burst on Sunday Jan. 18, 1914. Of course the services were omitted that day. A new heater was installed in the cellar of the Reading Room to service all buildings.

St. Michael's was host to the Archdeaconry Meeting Sept. 29, 1914. At a meeting of the Vestry on Sept. 29, 1914, the finances were reported at a low ebb but the bill for installing cement walks about the Church buildings was approved for payment. The Rector requested an increase in salary that was not granted. The Secretary reported that Minute Book No. 1, in use exactly 59 years, was deposited in the vault of the E. & G. Brooke Iron Co., for safe keeping. That Minute Book is missing and a diligent search failed to uncover the Book. It is possible Mr. Young removed it for some special purpose but it was not found among his effects following his death.

March 18, 1917, St. Michael's was asked to accept the assessment

for the Rector's Pension and the resolution was adopted including a preliminary contribution to the five million dollars initial fund.

For several years the Rector was granted the customary vacation and given sixty dollars to serve as his own supply.

Effects of World War I

Changing conditions resulting from our entry in the First World War in 1917 seemed to affect the Church attendance and the Choir went out of existence. This was reflected in a decrease in contributions and the annual receipts dropped from over six thousand dollars for the year of 1917 to less than three thousand dollars in 1919. Even with the decline in receipts the Sexton's salary was increased from eight to ten dollars per month and illuminating gas was installed in the Rectory.

On March 31, 1921, the iron fence surrounding the Church was ordered removed by the Vestry and the finances were reported at a new low. At a special meeting of the Vestry held August 28, the Vestrymen pledged to attend at least one service every Sunday and to encourage better attendance. The finances continued at a low state and the Treasurer reported Nov. 27, 1922, that a number of the members were in arrears. Ernest S. Rhoads and Gail L. Hook volunteered to await upon the delinquent members.

On December 28, 1922, the Rector submitted his resignation effective Feb. 1, 1923. The Vestry accepted the resignation and decided to borrow money from the local Bank to pay the unpaid salary of the Rector, the Rev. Harry Howe Bogert.

Plans were completed January 13, 1923, for an Aumbry and Vestment Case to be placed in the Sacristy. Vestry meetings were infrequent but on March 30 the Vestry voted to increase the membership from seven to nine and the action of the Vestry was approved at a Congregational Meeting held April second. The newly elected members were George Brooke Jr., and Henry A. Kissinger. Again the terms of the original Charter were violated but, for the sake of harmony, the error was resolved by deciding that no new members would be elected to replace vacancies thereby reverting to the proper number in the course of time.

The Bishop recommended several Clergymen for the vacancy but the salary of \$1,500 was too small. The Rev. Mr. Burke, Reading, and the Rev. Mr. DuHammel, Douglassville, filled the pulpit for a period of a year.

The Church suffered a severe loss in the death of Cyrus G. Henry, Organist and Vestryman, for many years. His father died suddenly the same day, Oct. 31, 1923. In the absence of a Rector, the Rev. Benj. F. Thompson officiated at the double funeral.

Bishop Talbot was so much concerned with conditions at St. Michael's that he took the situation in hand by notifying the Vestry that

he would attend the morning service on Feb. 4, 1924, accompanied by a candidate for the Rectorship. The Church was well filled for the Bishop's visitation but the Choir stalls were empty. The service started when the Bishop entered the Chancel from the Sacristy accompanied by the Rev. Arthur B. Vossler. Following an introduction the Rev. Mr. Vossler preached what was considered to be a good sermon. The Bishop met with the Vestry after the service and "laid down the law" to them resulting in the call to the Rectorship of the Rev. Mr. Vossler at the salary of two thousand dollars. The new Rector was in residence March 1, 1924. Under his leadership the Choir was re-organized, the old stable removed and a garage built, and the Vestry revitalized when Robert E. Brooke, on September 10, offered a resolution that the Vestry hold monthly meetings. The meetings were held in the Rectory in the evenings.

The Chapel Improved

Mrs. William Lacy was employed to serve as janitress of the Church. The Rector made a survey of the conditions of the several buildings and discovered that the joists of the Sunday School Room were rotted and unsafe. On Nov. 19, he recommended that a cellar be excavated under the building and other extensive improvements be made. He started the work, even to donning overalls and digging with pick and shovel. The heater burned out on December 17 and it was necessary to install a pipeless heater for temporary use. The work continued through 1925 and toilets were installed in the Sunday School Room and the Reading Room. A new heater was placed in the cellar and memorial windows replaced the ground-glass windows. One of the memorial windows was in recognition of the men of the Parish who had served in World War I. Records show that the Vestry authorized the payment of \$450 for that window and the donors of the other windows paid a similar amount.

During the lean years from 1916 to 1922, the E. & G. Brooke Iron Co., loaned the Church \$4,938 which they most generously cancelled on April 23, 1925.

June 14, 1925, the James Smith Marshall 2nd and Cyrus G. Henry Memorial Windows were placed in the northern end of the Church.

The Rector inaugurated the Every Member Visitation in 1925. The purpose of that movement was to promote regular attendance at services and to receive pledges for the support of the Church work in order to budget the expenses.

Late in 1925 it was found necessary to borrow \$3,000 to pay the bills covering the cost of the improvements.

At the Vestry meeting held April 9, 1926, the Rector reported 170 active Communicants. Mr. Burton B. Smith had been serving as Assistant Treasurer, performing all the duties of the Treasurer, since 1917

and asked to be relieved of the position. The by-laws were changed to permit a Parish Treasurer who was not a member of the Vestry. Raymond A. Huyett was elected to that position.

During the month of July, Leroy Arters touched up the lettering on a number of the Memorial Windows. The debts resulting from the major improvements mounted to over nine thousand dollars and another three thousand dollars was borrowed.

1927:—The Vestry was kept busy holding several meetings each month. There is an old saying "That your debts will catch up to you if you wait long enough". Such was the case with St. Michael's on May 19 when Ernest S. Rhoads offered to assist the Rector in visiting the Parishioners to obtain pledges for "The Church Repairs" debt. The total repair bill amounted to \$9,662 and Mr. Rhoads was successful in receiving pledges covering same.

The 75th Anniversary

The 75th Anniversary of the Consecration of St. Michael's Church was celebrated June 18-19-20, 1928. The program for Monday night was "The Anniversary Meeting" in the Church with a historical sketch by the Rev. William DuHamel, St. Gabriel's, Douglassville, and the sermon by The Ven. Benjamin F. Thompson, Archdeacon of Delaware. Tuesday evening:—Confirmation and sermon by The Rt. Rev. Frank W. Sterrett, D.D., LL.D., Bishop of Bethlehem. The Vested Choir of 30 members sang at the two services. Wednesday:—Corporate Communion of all members of St. Michael's Church, Bishop Sterrett, Celebrant; at 6 o'clock a Congregational Banquet in the Edward Brooke Reading Room, prepared and served by the Women's Auxiliary. More than 200 persons attended the services and over 100 attended the dinner. Entertainment between courses included a soprano solo by Mrs. Kathryn Krum, duet—Esther Kulp and Lona Lykens, whistling—Mrs. Lee K. Hook.

Oct. 7, 1928, The Rector was given permission to discontinue the Sunday evening services. The attendance had dwindled to a few of the faithful, those members not owning automobiles. Then, too, the radio programs interested others. The Everymember Canvass got under way in December under the leadership of Ernest S. Rhoads. Harry E. Hart offered to send bills for the unpaid pledges. In 1929, lights were installed at the outside entrances to the Church and Sunday School Building. A bulletin board was erected announcing the time of the services. The great depression resulted in diminishing receipts during the next few years and there was difficulty in paying the Diocesan annual assessments. Nov. 4, 1931, George A. Lineker was granted Canonical Papers and a "Certificate of Character" as a Candidate for Holy Orders. He was recommended for the Diaconate Apr. 24, 1932.

Henry A. Kissinger died Jan. 21, 1933. He was a member of the

Vestry and devoted his entire life to the work of the Church and Sunday School.

The Rector had been suffering from impaired health for some time and was unable to conduct the work of the Rectorship. The "Bank Holiday" tied up all the Church funds so it was decided to discontinue the Rector's salary and to pay only what the finances would provide. On April 27, 1933, there was held a special meeting of the Vestry with Bishop Sterrett present to discuss the Church finances. In October, the Bishop, Rector and Vestry joined in a meeting to discuss the Rector's health and temporary retirement. In an effort to improve his health, the Rector spent some time in California. The Archdeacon, the Venerable Harvey P. Walter, Priest-in-Charge, called a special meeting of the Vestry to discuss Parish problems. Arrangements were completed for the Archdeacon to conduct the Communion services and Charles E. Cotton, Lay Reader, to conduct all other services and to attend to the duties of the Rector.

Mr. George Brooke, Jr., resigned from the Vestry and Raymond A. Huyett, Treasurer, was elected for Mr. Brooke's unexpired term.

On July 14, 1935, a letter was received from Bishop Sterrett suggesting that St. Michael's, St. Gabriel's and St. Thomas' Churches join in using the same Rector. Mr. Robert E. Brooke, Senior Warden, agreed to adjust matters with the Bishop.

The funeral service for Mrs. Charles B. DuBell, (Ann Hunter Clingan), wife of the Rector of St. Simeon's Church, Philadelphia, was held in the Church Sept. 6, 1935. That was the last time the Choir sang at a funeral service.

Becomes Missionary Church

Sept. 15, 1935, Bishop Sterrett called a special meeting of the Vestry and presided over the meeting. He made the statement that considerable study had been made of the financial condition of St. Michael's and had arrived at the conclusion that it was necessary to place St. Michael's with the other Missionary Churches of the Diocese. St. Gabriel's and St. Thomas' were in that class and all three of the Churches were in need of a Rector so he suggested that Daniel C. Osborn take charge of them on October first with St. Michael's paying him a salary of twenty-five dollars a month for the balance of the year. He was to reside in the Rectory that had been recently vacated by the Vossler family.

In an effort to improve the Church finances, Robert E. Brooke, Senior Warden, organized an Every-member Canvass which resulted in pledges amounting to over eighteen hundred dollars. Accordingly the Rector's salary was increased to fifty dollars monthly for the year 1936.

The Rector was a single man, the Rectory an empty house and

sadly in need of repairs, so he joined with volunteers in removing the old paper from the walls, re-painting the woodwork and floors and the ladies "cleaned house" and provided a number of pieces of furniture. Mrs. Harry E. Hart conducted a public dinner at her home to raise funds to equip the kitchen.

A Congregational Meeting was held on April 13, the first in many years, when all Vestrymen were re-elected:—Edward Brooke, Robert E. Brooke, George Brooke 3rd, William K. Young, Henry K. Harrison, Harry E. Hart and Raymond A. Huyett. A discussion developed on the subject of re-painting the interior of the Church. All present agreed to the need, for the existing decorations dated back to 1884. One of the members offered to pay a goodly part of the cost but all estimates were too high and the work was postponed.

May 14, 1936, the Vestry reorganized. Treasurer Raymond A. Huyett requested retirement due to declining health and Daniel K. Miller was elected Treasurer to take office following the annual audit of the accounts.

Mr. Huyett had served in that office during the most critical period in the history of the Church and deserved unlimited credit for the handling of the accounts during the years of the great depression.

As a result of the tallness of the Rector it was necessary to elevate the reading table of the pulpit. That required the raising of the Hymn Board so the members of the congregation could see over the top of the pulpit.

At the meeting of the Vestry September 10, report was made that Treasurer Miller assumed office August 22. Lloyd Lykens, Sexton for more than 20 years, died and his son, Paul, filled the position until October first when Mr. and Mrs. Frank W. Miller took over that position and that of Janitress.

On November 12, the new Treasurer reported outstanding bills amounting to \$417 including delinquent taxes on the Rectory and several months electric bills. The Electric Company threatened to "cut the wires" if the bill was not paid.

December 10, it was reported that seven Memorial Windows had been repaired at the cost of \$124. Members of the families represented on the windows paid their respective cost. The Rectory doors were weather-stripped at that time.

The finances of the Church were improved early in 1937 by the Treasurer's success in contacting delinquent members with individual letters. There was an increase in new pledges to such an extent that the Rector was granted an increase in salary. All meetings of the Vestry were held at the office of the Birdsboro Steel Foundry & Machine Company.

A Congregational Meeting was held in the Reading Room on

March 29, followed by a social period. Reports were made by the Rector and officers.

The Vestry re-organized at the April meeting and the Treasurer and the Superintendent of the Cemetery reported that they would provide monthly statements for the guidance of the Vestry. By June all back bills had been paid and the Rector reported that the Diocesan Convention cancelled the assessment.

Interior Redecorated

At the September meeting the Rector was granted two weeks vacation with an arrangement made for Rev. Wm. P. Kemper and Philip Burke, Lay Reader, to take the services during his absence. The meeting revolved about the subject of the repainting of the interior of the Church, and a committee was appointed to raise the amount of \$1,400 represent by the bid of M. J. Earl, Reading, Mr. Charles D. Marshall offered to contribute \$500 on condition that the full amount be pledged before the work was started. That advice was relayed to the members, many of whom increased their pledges to provide the full amount. Some of the members wanted a change of colors to that of gray to represent stone but most of the contributors favored retaining the original colors. The Church was scaffolded and services were held in the Chapel. Mr. Robert E. Brooke and other descendents of Edward Brooke paid two hundred dollars for repairs to the Memorial Window above the Altar. New lights were installed along the sides of the arches facing the Altar and the painting completed on December ninth.

Jan. 13, 1938, the Vestry received the annual reports of the Treasurer and the Superintendent of the Cemetery and a resolution was adopted complimenting them for the completeness of the reports and for their work in general.

The Rev. Arthur B. Vossler died June 7, 1938, at Pasadena, Calif., and the Vestry passed a resolution of condolence to be sent to Mrs. Vossler.

William K. Young, Secretary, reported that No. 2 Minute Book was completed covering the period between Sept. 29, 1917, and Sept. 8, 1938. A new Minute Book was provided for his use but never used, the Minutes being recorded for a number of years on tablet paper. During October plans were authorized for extensive repairs and repainting of the exterior of the Rectory.

The Rector, the Rev. Daniel C. Osborn, resigned effective November first and the services for the balance of the year were in charge of Rev. Howard Ziegler. On June 12, 1939, the Vestry met for the first time in the Board Room of the new Brooke Iron Co. office on Main Street with the Rev. Irving A. McGrew, the new Rector, presiding. Secretary Young was absent due to illness and the Treasurer was

appointed Secretary Pro Tem. A reception for the McGrews was held in the Reading Room.

In February Mrs. Helen Grubb offered to purchase some Church Hymnals from a fund in her possession. The March meeting of the Vestry was held in the Rectory following the mid-week Lenten services. Refreshments were served by Mrs. McGrew.

The Rector was stricken with an ailment that required hospitalization and was unable to return to the duties of the Rectorship for several months. The Rev. Howard Ziegler, retired, Reading, conducted the services and Mr. Fitzhugh McGrew, New York, assumed the cost of the supply in the Rector's absence.

The Venerable Harvey P. Walter, Archdeacon of the Diocese of Bethlehem, died April 25, 1939. He rendered valuable services for St. Michael's during the years of uncertainty and financial stress starting in 1933.

In the early fall of 1939, the slate roofs of the Church and Chapel were repaired and the interior of the Reading Room received extensive repairs. The Vestry passed a resolution thanking George R. Snyder for supervising and working on the Reading Room repairs.

In November, 1940, the Rector suggested increasing the number of Vestrymen from seven to nine but the Chancellor of the Diocese advised against any change due to the change requirements in the Charter. The pipe organ was completely over-hauled and cleaned at the cost of \$300.00. Vestryman Edward Brooke died November 27 following 60 years continuous service on the Vestry. Howard Murray was elected to the Vestry to fill the vacancy.

In 1941, a feature of the Every-member Canvass was special pledges of \$74.70 for assistance of English Missionary work. The Second World War had a direct effect on the funds of the Mother Church and they were in need of assistance.

A new electric pump was installed in the cellar of the Chapel Jan. 9, and the Rectory bath-room was repapered September eleventh.

Aid British War Relief

In 1942, the Canvass included funds for the British War Relief and \$24 for the American Army and Navy Commission of Chaplains. On April 9, Raymond A. Huyett resigned from the Vestry and Treasurer Daniel K. Miller was elected. Another vacancy on the Vestry resulted from the death of Robert E. Brooke, Senior Warden, July 21. For more than fifty years he was an untiring worker for the betterment of the Church and the Congregation. He was succeeded on the Vestry by his son, Robert C. Brooke. The Rev. Mr. McGrew returned from his vacation to officiate at Mr. Brooke's funeral, returned to Geneva, N. Y., to complete his vacation when he, too, died August 20, following

a short period in the hospital. His funeral was attended by Howard Murray, Robert C. Brooke, Geo. R. Snyder and Harry E. Hart.

Restored as Independent Parish

Following the death of the Rev. Mr. McGrew, the services were conducted for the balance of the year by the Rev. Howard Ziegler. In the absence of a Rector, the Vestry elected George Brooke, 3rd, Senior Warden, and he started a campaign to obtain greatly increased pledges in order to secure the services of a Rector independent of the Diocesan Missionary Churches. The plan was discussed with the Bishop who was in complete harmony with the movement. Accordingly, a call was issued to the Rev. Thomas B. Smythe, St. Mary's Church, Reading, October 30, 1942. No immediate answer was forth-coming but the Rev. Mr. Smythe's terms were received in November. Mr. Brooke arranged for a meeting of the members of the Vestry and Canvassing Committee at his home when the terms were considered. Following a number of telephone calls between Mr. Brooke and the Bishop it was decided to accept the terms with the understanding that St. Gabriel's and St. Thomas' Churches would be included as charges under the directorship of the Rev. Mr. Smythe. The call was effective Jan. 1, 1943.

Following the removal of Mrs. McGrew from the Rectory, extensive repairs and improvements were completed so the Rectory would be ready for the new Rector to be in residence on the first of January.

The new Rector presided over the Vestry meeting on January 14 when he re-appointed George Brooke, 3rd, Senior Warden. He discovered that the No. 2 Parish Register was completely filled and requested permission to purchase a new Register Book to serve as Book No. 3. The No. 2 Book was started by the Rev. Harry Howe Bogert in February 1912. The accounts of the Treasurer were audited every year since 1936 and the Rector re-appointed Lee K. Hook, Gail L. Hook and Robert S. Grubb to serve as the Auditing Committee. With our country being involved in World War II and the possibility of enemy air-raids, the Senior Warden was appointed to provide a shelter for use at such times when people were attending Church services. The cellar of the Rectory was selected as the safest place in an emergency.

The Rector's ability as a public speaker and his interest in community affairs resulted in many calls to address local meetings. As a member of the Birdsboro Ministerium, he renewed his interest in the work of the Boy Scouts, sponsored by that organization, and appointed Howard Murray a member of the Troop Committee as the representative of St. Michael's.

At the Vestry meeting of March 11, the Rector reported having secured an Honor Roll Plaque to hang in the Church and list the names of the boys of St. Michael's serving in the armed forces. The

Plaque was presented by Mrs. Lorena V. Stehman. The Church War Chest contributions amounted to \$122.75.

A new budget plan covering the fire insurance was adopted. The plan called for a five year policy to be paid in annual installments. The Church is insured for \$30,000; Chapel \$11,000; Pipe organ, \$3,000; the Reading Room, \$10,000; Rectory \$18,000; and sundry other items makes a complete coverage of \$75,600.

At the May meeting of the Vestry, Mr. Young submitted his resignation as Secretary which was not accepted, but Treasurer Miller was appointed Acting Secretary to assist Mr. Young. The Diocesan Convention elected Robert C. Brooke to the Board of the Church Home, George Brooke 3rd and the Rev. Mr. Smythe Alternate Deputies to the General Convention of the Church, Cleveland, Ohio.

In June, extensive repairs were authorized to the outside of the Rectory that included the replacement of defective wood-work and repainting.

Henry K. Harrison, Junior Warden, formerly listed as Accounting Warden, died July 6, 1943, at the age of eighty. He served on the Vestry for more than 50 years and was the last of the elder Vestrymen



whose hearts and souls were in the interests of St. Michael's. He was succeeded by Mr. F. Ward Coburn and Howard Murray was elected Junior Warden.

A generous contribution was made through the gifts of individual members to the Bishop's 20th Anniversary Fund.

At the Congregational Meeting on Apr. 10, 1944, Mr. Coburn withdrew as a candidate for Vestryman due to the stress of other business and C. Donnell Marshall was elected; the other Vestrymen were re-elected. Mrs. Robert C. Brooke suggested improved lighting of the Church and Mr. Marshall recommended adjustment of the Pulpit light. On May 23, plans were made to observe "D" day with Church services and the ringing of the Church bell. "D" day was invasion day of Europe.

During the Rector's absence in the spring and during the month of July, the services were conducted by the Rev. Mr. Ziegler and Mr. Nelson Feroe, Lay Reader. A new heater, complete with a stoker, costing \$1,303, was installed in the cellar of the Chapel. The purpose of the new heater was to heat all the Parish buildings. Nelson Feroe and John S. Herbein were installed as Lay Readers on May 20, 1945. At the Congregational Meeting of 1945, the Rector reported that Mrs. Charles D. Marshall presented a new set of "Hangings" for the Altar, in memory of her sister, Mrs. Irene Noble.

March 13, 1945, the Rector provided an "Agenda" of the business for the benefit of the Vestrymen at Vestry meetings. Report was received that the Rev. Howard Ziegler was a patient in the hospital and individuals contributed \$100 towards the payment of his hospital expenses.

During the year 1945 repairs and improvements included the electric service and planting of shrubbery at the Rectory; a tin floor was placed in the upper floor of the tower to prevent seepage of water from injuring the organ; and the Reading Room plaster was patched. Towards the end of the year, Lee K. Hook was appointed Parish Representative of the Diocesan Committee on Lay Activity.

In 1946, a new loose leaf Minute Book was placed in use; The Reconstruction and Advance Fund was organized and \$428 contributed for the work in the war stricken countries; the two large elm trees were sprayed to eliminate the elm leaf beetle. Mr. George Brooke, 3rd, Senior Warden, withdrew as a candidate for re-election to the Vestry and G. Clymer Brooke was elected in his stead.

The last Vestry Minutes written by William K. Young, Secretary, were those of the meeting held September 17. He died Dec. 10, 1946, aged 89 years, having served on the Vestry sixty years. Daniel K. Miller was elected Clerk of the Vestry on December tenth. The term Clerk is used by the English Church and is used in this country in lieu of Secretary.

In 1947, (Every year seems to have new items of interest); the eight large Candle Sticks were repaired and repolished and the cost paid by the original donors: Maria Brooke, Dr. and Mrs. Lytle, Samuel Kring, Mrs. G. W. Focht, Benj. Steward family, with two donors unknown. Lee K. Hook was elected Vestryman to fill the vacancy resulting from the death of Mr. Young. The Church floor had sagged at the doors and in front of the Lectern and was jacked up and reinforced.

Early Anniversary Plans

In 1948, at the January Vestry meeting, Robert C. Brooke, Senior Warden, renewed the suggestion that the Church lighting be improved and reported that he was gathering photographs of past Rectors for the 100th Anniversary in 1951.

Following the withdrawal of G. Clymer Brooke from the Vestry, Ernest S. Rhoads was elected. Outside contributions included \$218 to the Presiding Bishop's Fund; \$200 to the Church Radio Hour; and \$20 to the Pennsylvania Council of Churches. Repairs and Improvements included the replastering at the organ window and two storm windows and the repainting of the Vestry kitchen. On December 14, a tentative plan for new Church lighting was submitted but no action taken.

Seventeen members of St. Michael's attended the 25th Anniversary of the Ordination of the Rt. Rev. Frank W. Sterrett, Bishop of the Diocese of Bethlehem, Nov. 9, 1948.

On June 14, 1949, the place of meeting of the Vestry was changed from the office of the Brooke Iron Co., to the Reading Room, (Parish House).

Lay Readers, William Smythe, St. Michael's, and Raymond Elliot, St. Gabriel's, conducted the services during the month of July while the Rector was on vacation.

Frank W. Miller, Sexton, resigned effective October first and Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Yohn were employed to care for the Church property. The Rector served in the capacity of Clerical Deputy at the Tri-ennial Convention, San Francisco.

The Rectory and Reading Room kitchens were completed with the laying of inlaid linoleum in time for the outstanding celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Ordination to the Priesthood of the Rector, the Rev. Thomas B. Smythe, on Dec. 16, 1949. The celebration included a dinner served in the Reading Room attended by one hundred people including the Bishop, Clergymen from Reading, and the Rector's Parishioners from St. Michael's, St. Gabriel's and St. Thomas' Churches. He was presented with a walnut desk, accessories and other gifts.

In 1950, Mrs. Mary Hetrich presented a fire-proof safe for the storage and preservation of the Church records. The Rector reported that Mr. Marshall Post had arranged for the restoration and printing

of the photographs of the Rectors of St. Michael's, and that a tentative plan or program had been formulated for the 100th Anniversary of the founding of St. Michael's. Howard Murray was appointed General Chairman of the Anniversary Committee and Daniel K. Miller, Treasurer.

Ernest S. Rhoads was appointed Senior Warden by the Rector at the re-organization of the Vestry April 18. The Rector was gratified with the recognition extended St. Michael's at the Annual Convention of the Diocese resulting in his election to the Diocesan Executive Council; the election of Robert C. Brooke to the Board of the Church Home; and the appointment of G. Clymer Brooke to membership on the Diocesan Finance Committee.

A goodly number of the members of the Church visited the Church Home on Sunday, May 14, at which time St. Michael's contributed \$53 for the work of the Home.

June 13, the Rector circulated among the membership an announcement of the plans for the 100th Anniversary that included a list of several much needed improvements desirable for completion in time for the celebration during the month of May 1951. An appeal for contributions was included.

On September 12, the Rev. Benj. F. Thompson, former Rector, presented his Scrap Book of newspaper clippings covering the period of his Rectorship of St. Michael's, 1891-1907. The Rector reported that Mrs. Charles D. Marshall was making a study of Church lighting with the primary object of securing better light, with the beauty of design being secondary. The Treasurer reported contributions of \$816.35 to the Anniversary Fund.

An additional stoker was added to the heater to provide better heating service for the Church and the Reading Room. On Oct. 25, the Junior Service League served the Clergy-Vestry dinner in the Reading Room. The meeting included members from the Churches of Berks and Lebanon Counties and was conducted for the promotion of the Every-member Canvass. Ernest S. Rhoads, Senior Warden, and William C. Kelly were appointed to conduct the canvass for St. Michael's.

Rev. Benjamin Fish Thompson passed away on the fifth of November and his funeral service was held in Christ Church, Dover, Del., with interment in the adjoining Graveyard. Lee K. Hook and Daniel K. Miller represented the Vestry of St. Michael's at the funeral.

During 1950, the Treasurer's disbursements amounted to \$9,708.20, covering Current Expenses, Special Parochial Expenses, and Diocesan and General Church Objects. That amount appears to have been the largest in St. Michael's history.

In 1951, the January Vestry meeting received the report of the

Rector and the Property Committee on the progress of the new lighting system. Several lanterns were placed in position in the Church and a selection made in which the Vestry and Mrs. Charles D. Marshall were in agreement. Through the generosity of Mrs. Marshall the new lighting system was installed at no cost to the Church.

Mr. Harry E. Hart died Feb. 4, 1951, aged 81 years. For 49 years he had served as Vestryman and had been Superintendent of St. Michael's Cemetery for 25 years. A resolution of Condolence was adopted at the Vestry meeting of February 14 and copies thereof delivered to the members of his family. His son, Harry L. Hart, was elected to fill his unexpired term on the Church Vestry.

St. Michael's has enjoyed a rare heritage in having a member of the Brooke family on the Church Vestry during the century of its existence. There are other families whose forefathers were included in the list of the founders and they are the descendents of the Lincolns, Hooks, Kersts and Knabbs. Generation after generation have continued as faithful members of St. Michael's.

On March 1, 1951, the members of the Vestry were:—the Rev. Thomas B. Smythe, President; Ernest S. Rhoads, Senior Warden; Howard Murray, Junior Warden; Daniel K. Miller, Secretary-Treasurer; Robert C. Brooke, C. Donnell Marshall, Lee K. Hook and Harry L. Hart.

The appended list of Officers and Vestrymen is complete with the possible exception of several names not recorded around the years 1860 and 1880. The Officers' names are in the order in which they served but the Vestrymen's names are in alphabetical order. Senior Warden:—David J. Lincoln, David Connor, M. Rees Evans, William K. Young, Henry K. Harrison, Edward Brooke, Robert E. Brooke, George Brooke 3rd, Robert C. Brooke and Ernest S. Rhoads.

Junior Warden:—Evan E. Rigg, Joseph R. Kerst, Henry K. Harrison, George Brooke 3rd and Howard Murray.

Secretary:—Joseph R. Kerst, Henry G. Hunter, Wm. C. Garret, Noel B. Whitman, Wm. K. Young and Daniel K. Miller.

Treasurer:—George W. Harrison, Henry K. Harrison, George Brooke 3rd, Raymond A. Huyett and Daniel K. Miller.

Vestrymen:—Edward Brooke, George Brooke, George Brooke, Jr., G. Clymer Brooke, George Brinley, William Deb. Brusstar, F. Ward Coburn, Harry E. Hart, Harry L. Hart, Cyrus G. Henry, Lee K. Hook, Levi E. Hook, James King, Henry A. Kissinger, George Knabb, Henry S. Kupp and C. Donnell Marshall.

The Church Vestrymen perform important duties by serving as chairmen or members of the several committees needed for the conduct of the business of the Parish. The honor attached thereto is just compensation for the performance of faithful service.

CHURCH STATISTICS

<i>Clergymen</i>	<i>Baptisms</i>	<i>Confirmations</i>	<i>Marriages</i>	<i>Burials</i>
Edmund Leaf	475	203	78	258
Benj. F. Thompson	187	136	38	101
Francis Yarnall	18	2	5	15
Harry Howe Bogert	65	27	15	42
Arthur B. Vossler	61	89	14	79
Daniel C. Osborn	8	12	1	11
Irving A. McGrew	7	21	5	19
Thomas B. Smythe	65	42	35	88
Others Officiating	27	10	2	4
Total	913	542	193	617

THE EVANS FUND

Miss Eliza B. Evans died March 13, 1895. She bequeathed the sum of \$5,000 unto St. Michael's Church, "to be safely invested, the income arising there-from to be applied by the Rector and Vestrymen, at their discretion, to the relief of the sick and needy and especially to the support of the aged and infirm of the Parish of said Church forever."

The bequest became effective Mar. 20, 1898. The Rector, the Rev. Benj. F. Thompson, had been providing help and charity for some time and issued the statement that: "No attention paid to letters but must be applied for in person." Through the years there has been little need of assistance by the members of St. Michael's and the income was used to assist other distressed families living in Birdsboro. The fund was entirely exhausted during some of the so-called "hard times" periods but, in recent years, the requests have diminished. Excess income has been added to the principal, now nearly double the original bequest. On Feb. 1, 1923, Mr. Charles K. Manwiller was appointed Distributor, he being well qualified to issue orders to worthy applicants.

CHURCH ENDOWMENTS

Hiester Clymer—before 1900	\$ 500.00
E. Bowman Leaf—before 1900	500.00
Charles D. Marshall—May 14, 1945	2,000.00
Mrs. Robert E. Brooke—Dec. 17, 1949	1,000.00
The Howard Murray Family—Dec. 25, 1950	1,000.00
Henry M. Willitts—March, 1951	1,000.00

The Church is residuary legatee in the estates of Mr. John Stehman and of Mrs. Ella Fair Hengst, both deceased.

MEMBERS SERVING IN TIMES OF WAR

Mexican War:—Edward Connor.

Civil War:—Ammon Albright, Enos L. Alderman, Henry E. Hook, Henry G. Hunter, Joseph R. Kerst, Henry A. Kissinger, George W. Knabb, Samuel Kring, George B. Kupp, Henry S. Kupp, Luther Pawling and Andrew Shule.

Spanish-American War:—J. Edmund Kerst and William Kring.

World War I:—Robert W. Albright, G. Chester Arters, Charles Brooke, George Brooke 3rd, Robert C. Brooke, William E. Fornoff, George R. Hertrich, Rose A. Rhoads, Gail L. Hook, Raymond A. Huyett, Francis Lange, William Lange, George A. Lineker (Canadian Army), Fred Ling (Canadian Army), Frank P. Lytle, Harold K. Lytle, John H. Marquet, Daniel K. Miller, Walter K. Miller (Merchant Marine), John H. Reeser and Clifton W. Sands.

World War II:—Herman Berstler, A. L. Loomis Bell, Jr., John L. B. Brooke, F. Ward Coburn, Jr., Carl L. Derr, Millard Eppihimer, Harry L. Hart, Thomas Henry 3rd, George O. Hook, William L. Hook, Howard S. Jones, Raymer Kent, William C. Keller, Carrol S. Kring, Webster C. Kropp, Michael S. Krum, Paul G. McKinney, William E. McKinney, John D. Marquet, James D. Martin, Benjamin G. Morgan, Glenn Reeser, Robert Reeser, Howard G. Rink, James A. Rose, Leroy G. Scatchard, James L. Smith, Robert M. Smith, William P. Smith, John W. Smythe, Randall M. Stoltzfus and Stanley S. Yoder.

Men in the Armed Services March 1, 1951:—Herman Berstler, Jannar Delaquito, Thomas Henry 3rd and Webster C. Kropp.



INTERIOR SHOWING NEW LIGHTING FIXTURES—1951

Memorials

A List of Memorials in St. Michael's Church, Birdsboro, Pa.

There are two memorial bronze plaques: behind the Lectern is the

1. Leaf Tablet, which reads: "Sacred to the Memory of Edmund Leaf by whose efforts this Church was established and over which he presided as Rector for nearly forty years, until he Entered into Rest, June 17th, 1891; in the 73rd year of his age. With grateful appreciation of his long and faithful services, this Tablet is erected by the Congregation". On the East wall of the Church appears
2. Another tablet, reading "In Loving Memory of George Clymer Brooke, Second Son of Annie Clymer and Edward Brooke. Born June 5th, 1875; Died May 7th, 1915. Numbered with the saints in glory everlasting".
3. The Altar is thus enscribed "To the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of our Beloved Father and Mother George Brooke and Mary Baldwin Irwin Brooke".
4. The Altar Cross reads "To the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of Stephen Baldwin Irwin. Ob. Sept. 30th, 1880. O frater Carriissime".
5. The Altar Desk or Missal-stand reads "To the Glory of God and for perpetual use upon His Holy Altar, Easter 1892. Presented by Mary B. I. Brooke".
6. The large Altar vases are inscribed "Stephen Baldwin Irwin. Ob. Sept. 30th, 1880".
7. The small Altar vases "To the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of Elizabeth Muhlenberg Irwin Tullidge".
8. The Altar Candle sticks read "In Loving Memory of my mother, Maria Theresa Brooke".
9. The Credence Table "In Memory of George W. Harrison, Feb. 22, 1902".
10. The Altar Service Book "To the Glory of God and in Memory of Rosalind Wood Clingan Brooke, this memorial of the affection of her grandchildren is sacred. St. Michael's Church, 1933".
11. The Chalice and Paten are each inscribed "Easter 1882".
12. The Baptism shell reads "In Memory of Bessie Kerst. Died April 19th, 1888".
13. The Silver Cruet reads "In Praise of God and in Memory of Edward Brooke".
14. The Lavabo Bowl reads "Whitsunday 1937. Presented by St. Agnes Guild".
15. The silver Offering Plates read "In Memory of David J. Lincoln who died April 10, 1886".

16. The brass Alms Bason is inscribed "Presented by Mrs. George Brooke upon the Tenth Anniversary of the Rector, The Rev. Benjamin Fish Thompson, 1891-1901".
17. The Ciborium or wafer-box reads "In Memoriam M.B.I.B. Obit March 3rd, 1910. Requiescat in Pace".
18. The glass cruets read "In Memoriam Rebecca Morgan Kupp".
19. The old branched candle-sticks read "Ad Gloriam Dei et In Memoriam Meae Dulcis Matris, Harriet Potts Leaf. Pascha 1893".
20. The old Eucharistic lights read "In Memoriam Edmund Leaf, Priest. Easter, 1892. The Gift of William K. Young".
21. The Processional Cross is inscribed "In Memoriam, Charles H. Young, Chorister. Obit Jan. 12, 1894".
22. The Baptistry is marked "In Memoriam Rev. Edmund Leaf, Rector of St. Michael's Church, 1851-1891, and Harriet Potts Clay Leaf".
23. The Pulpit is inscribed "To the Praise and Honour of God. A Thank Offering for his recovery from greivous illness. Presented by George Brooke to St. Michael's Church. September 1887".
24. The Lectern reads "To the Glory of God. An Offering presented by Mary B. I. Brooke in grateful remembrance of her beloved husband's restoration to health, September 1887".
25. The Litany Desk is inscribed "An Offering presented to St. Michael's Church by Mr. George Brooke. October 3rd, 1888".
26. The Church aisles, Chancel floor and Choir Steps, of marble tile, are inscribed "To the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of our beloved Father and Mother, George Brooke and Mary Baldwin Irwin Brooke".
27. The Organ is inscribed "To the Glory of God and in Memory of John B. and Margaret B. Irwin", and was given by Mrs. George Brooke.
28. The Church Sign Board and the Chancel Flag have been given and maintained by Mrs. John V. R. Stehman.
29. The Hymn Boards were made and presented by Mr. John H. Reeser.

Stained Glass Windows in St. Michael's Church, Birdsboro, Pa.

1. The Altar Window, made by the former Tiffany Studios, is the most brilliant of our windows, its rich reds and blues and purples catching the mid-day sun at its brightest. It portrays a star in the upper portion, below which a choir of cherubs is arranged in a circle, and below that the figure of an angel, comforting two women. Its panels read "Jesus Christ, the same, yesterday, today and forever" and "Peace on Earth, Goodwill to Men". The lower panel reads "To the Praise and Honor of God and in Memory of my husband, Edward Brooke, who died on Christmas Day, 1878.

- "The righteous live for ever more, the care of them is with the Most High, until the day break and the shadows flee away".
2. The small window on the South side of the Baptistry, showing lilies and the Lamb of God, is marked "A. H. W. In Memoriam. He giveth His Beloved Sleep" (A. H. W. are the initials of A. Hunter Wood).
 3. The circular or rose window in the Baptistry, showing eight faces of little children or cherubs, with a dove in the centre, is lettered "March 28, 1870—In Loving Memory of Anne Clymer Brooke Lee—Dec. 24, 1903. "She asked of him life, and He gave her long life, even for ever and ever".
 4. The "Crossed Keys" window in the Baptistry has no inscription.
 5. The small window, showing a full-bearing apple tree with the Cross and Crown device, is "In Memory of Maurice Rees Evans, died Aug. 8, 1874".
 6. Next to it appears a window, showing the Angel of the Resurrection "To the Glory of God and in Memory of David J. Lincoln, who died April 10, 1886".
 7. An unusual window, companion to the "apple window", showing sheaves of corn and wheat, reads "In Memory of Caleb Harrison, died Sept. 27, 1871, aged 72 years".
 8. On the North wall of the Church appears the "Cy Henry" window showing a lamp standing on the Holy Bible, and marked "Gift of the Old Choir. Cyrus Henry, Oct. 31, 1923".
 9. Over the North Entrance to the Church is the second "rose" window marked "In Memoriam" the gift of Dr. Frank P. Lytle. It shows a central circle with the Crown of Thorns and the lettere INRI, surrounded by six other circles, showing various Church symbols: the dove of peace, the Easter Palms, the Holy Bible, the Bread of Life, the grapes and Chalice, the Palm Sunday "Alleluia".
 10. Balancing the Cy. Henry window appears a window, showing the Lamb of God on the Book of Life with its Seven Seals, and marked "In Memory of James Smith Marshall II. Dec. 20, 1907—Sept. 26, 1910".
 11. On the East wall at the rear is a window showing the dove with olive leaf and a cluster of lilies-of-the-valley, and inscribed "In memory of George J. Lincoln. Born Mch. 16, 1854. Died July 14, 1855".
 12. Next is a window of conventional design, marked "To the Glory of God and in loving remembrance of Lillie P. Clymer, who died Nov. 7, 1873. Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God".
 13. In the East transept is a small window, furnished by the Leaf family, and showing the figure of the child David, with a lamb in his arms, and bearing a staff".

14. The East Transept window, has three lancets, with painted panels. One shows an angel placing a crown on the figure of a girl, below which appears the name "Bessie". The opposite window shows a little child being borne aloft in the arms of an angel, and below it appears the name "Eddie". The central panel depicts Our Lord and Mary in the Garden on the morning of the Resurrection. And it reads "Elizabeth M. Brooke Clymer. Ob. Oct. 8, 1870. O dulcis conjux". This window was once over the Altar.

Stained Glass Windows in the Sunday School

During the regime of the Reverend Arthur B. Vossler a series of seven stained glass windows was installed in the Sunday School. They were made by the Keystone Art Glass Company of Reading, Pa., and they follow the same general pattern, showing a pictorial panel, a donor's panel, and a Scripture Text panel in each window. Going round the room in order the windows show:

1. The Tablets of the Law of Moses, with the text "Thy law is a lamp unto my feet and a Light unto my Path" and was given by Mr. and Mrs. Elmer E. Cullison.
2. The Emblem of St. Luke, with the text "Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain Mercy". This window was given by the Men's Bible Class of Christ Church, Germantown, where Mr. Vossler had served as Minister.
3. The emblem of St. John, with the phrase "Come unto Me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest". No donor's name appears on this window.
4. The emblem of St. Matthew, with the Beatitude "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God", the gift of the Crusader Class, Mrs. Catherine Krum, Teacher.
5. The Lord holding the World in his hands, with the line "Protect us by Thy Might, Great God our King" and inscribed "To the Memory of the Members of this Parish who served our Country in the World War".
6. The emblem of St. Mark, and "Go ye into all the world and Preach the Gospel to every Creature" and inscribed "A gift from a Friend". This was the gift of Mr. John V. R. Stehman.
7. An Open Bible with Alpha and Omega, reading "I am the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord God"; given by Mrs. Annie G. Willits in memory of her son, Preston LeRoy.

Church Organizations

THE CHURCH SCHOOL

The earliest recorded information relative to church school activities at St. Michael's is found in the *Diocesan Journal* of 1853. There were fifty pupils enrolled at this time under the supervision of ten teachers.

In 1866, according to the *Berks and Schuylkill Journal*, a Christmas Eve Party was held by the church for members of the church school. A hundred pupils attended this entertainment and each was presented with a book, a picture, candy, and an orange. A beautiful Christmas tree illuminated with candles was among the decorations. This affair was in charge of the Reverend Mr. Edmund Leaf assisted by the teachers and was held in the church because that was the only building at the time.

By the year 1872, according to "Now and Then", a publication of the Reverend Mr. Leaf, there was an enrollment of 118 children. The superintendent at this time was Joseph R. Kerst who was assisted by ten teachers and a librarian.

At this time the Chapel was in the process of construction. Funds for the building were largely contributed by Mr. Edward Brooke and Mr. George Brooke.

A Mission School was conducted at this time in the Cemetery Chapel for the convenience of the children living in the Monocacy Furnace area. Sixty-eight pupils attended this school, the superintendent of which was Caleb Rhoads, the father of Ernest S. Rhoads, assisted by five teachers of whom one, Mrs. Kerst, was the grandmother of Mr. Daniel K. Miller.

By 1901 the church school enrollment had reached 120 with the Rector the Reverend B. F. Thompson as superintendent assisted by Albert Fritz, secretary-treasurer, Elmer J. Shanaman, librarian and Douglas Burke, assistant librarian. There were eleven teachers at this time.

According to records and publications of the year 1894-1901 there was a tendency for Church School enrollment to fluctuate from about 120 to 145 pupils with peak attendance at the Christmas season. This was due, no doubt, to the custom practiced by the children of attending various Sunday Schools at this season in order to benefit from the gifts and treats distributed at these times. Following the festival seasons attendance dropped to normal again. In December 1903 pupils were furnished with weekly attendance cards—which may have been a form of "Christmas Insurance" against too fervent gift gleanings by the children.

Just as the Christmas season was marked with suitable festivities,

such as entertainments, gifts, and treats, so the summer season during these early years was marked by the annual picnic. The practice of summer vacation for the church school pupils was observed as early as 1896.

The first recorded picnic was held at Mineral Spring Park in 1895. The group travelled by train and trolley to the designated spot.

In 1896 the picnic was held at Bower's Dam with local store keepers hauling both pupils and lunch to the site by delivery wagon.

In 1897 the annual festivity was held at Rea's Woods (later Long's Woods) with the same mode of transportation.

The picnic at Bowers Dam in 1898 must have been indeed a vivid affair—attended by 125 people. It was upon this occasion that Bessie Wamsher had the misfortune to fall into the creek but a timely rescue was effected by Mr. Kissinger.

The year 1899 seems to have been about a peak year so far as attendance, with 141 pupils enrolled—not counting "holiday" scholars, as the Reverend Mr. Thompson referred to those attending solely for Christmas and Easter treats.

The annual picnic at Bowers Dam in 1900 seems to have passed without a mishap.

In 1901 the annual event took place in Rea's Woods with the store wagons again furnishing transportation. The years 1902-1905 found the group again gathered at this spot.

On January 12, 1907, a winter picnic was held at the Reading Room with 90 persons attending in spite of a snow storm.

In more recent years Sunday School picnics have been held at various times at the Clingan Homestead, the Edward Brooke Home, Six Penny Creek, the Daniel Boone Homestead, Marshall Post Farm, and Mrs. Charles D. Marshall's Laurel Locks Farm.

From the year 1910 to about 1924 there was a decided lull in Church School activities due undoubtedly to the moving of several families with children.

Picnics and Christmas entertainments, however, were by no means the only activities of importance during these early years of the church school.

During the Rectorship of the Reverend Mr. Thompson from 1891-1907 the Church School appears to have been a very active organization.

In 1893, Saturday sewing classes met in the Reading Room. The use of mite boxes was first introduced in 1894. In 1895 a new library was built in the northeast corner of the Sunday School Room and equipped with new books. Each member had a card and was entitled to the use of one book a week.

Regular contributions were made by the church school to missionary endeavors, and various relief funds. In 1902 contributions were sent to Bishop Rowe in Alaska and to Eumegahbowh, the old Indian Priest.

During these years the various classes were given Bishop's names. The classes competed for attendance records and the Rector presented the winning class with suitable awards.

It may be of interest to note that the floor covering in the Sunday School in the years 1893-1908 was "matting".

In 1924, under the leadership of the new Rector, the Reverend Arthur B. Vossler, the Sunday School Chapel underwent extensive repairs. The present floor, memorial windows, altar, and front door were made at this time. The cost of this construction and repairs was \$10,000. Mrs. Arthur B. Vossler served as Superintendent of the Sunday School.

In more recent years the church school was for some time under the direction of Mr. George Brooke 3rd and Mr. William T. McKinney who were elected superintendent and treasurer in 1937.

At the present time the Sunday School is directed by the Reverend Thomas B. Smythe who acted as superintendent since the beginning of his rectorship at St. Michael's in 1943. He has been assisted in this work by various members of the congregation. During 1950-51 term the Reverend Mr. Smythe is being assisted by Mrs. Raymer Kent, Mrs. Glen Reeser, Mrs. Harold Hoffman, and Mr. John S. Herbein.

At various times, a list of the names of teachers in our Sunday School has been published, and we repeat two of those lists here:

1872. Superintendent, Joseph R. Kerst. Teachers: Enos Alderman, Edward Alderman, Henry Kissinger, Mrs. Annie Brooke, Mrs. Amelia Harrison, Mrs. Catherine Hook, Mrs. Louisa Kissinger, Mrs. Catherine Liggett, Miss Eliza Evans, Miss Emma Rhoads. Librarian, Mrs. Emma Alderman.

1901. Superintendent, The Rector. Secretary and Treasurer, Albert Fritz. Librarian, Elmer J. Shanaman. Assistant Librarian, Douglass Burk. Teachers: Miss Lulu Siegfried, Miss Lorena Vanaman, Miss Louise Evans, Miss Alice Kerst, Miss Laura Nagle, Mrs. Henry A. Kissinger, Mrs. Enoch Rhoads, Mrs. Albert Fritz, Mrs. William Siegfried, Mr. Henry A. Kissinger and Mr. Cyrus G. Henry. Mr. Henry served as organist from 1893 until his death in 1923.

WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

Thru the years the women of St. Michael's Church have organized in various groups to work for the interests of the parish and the wider fields of domestic and foreign missions.

On February 1, 1894, the WOMEN'S AUXILIARY was organized for purposes of missionary work. Clothing was made or collected for distribution to local needy as well as mission fields.

In 1899 donations made possible the purchase of a sewing machine to facilitate the making of garments for the church home at Jonestown.

During the winter of 1900-01, 193 garments were made. Material,

such as gingham, was donated at various times by Dives, Pomeroy and Stewart—Reading. Sewing was also done for the Guild Closet.

Besides the making of clothing, the Auxiliary also donated money to missions in Alaska and Georgia, as well as raising money to contribute to the repair fund.

On May 15, 1901 the Women's Auxiliary of the Archdeaconery of Reading was in session at St. Michael's with forty delegates present. The group was served luncheon in the Rectory. Several years later this same function was attended by one-hundred people at which time Bishop Talbot was the celebrant at communion.

Leaders in the Auxiliary at this time included: Mrs. E. K. Rhoads, Mrs. H. A. Kissinger, Miss Valeria Harrison, Miss Alice Kerst, Mrs. James Bacon, Mrs. Isaac Miller, Mrs. Thomas Shirey, Mrs. Ammon Albright, Mrs. William Siegfried, Mrs. Charles Miller, Miss Annie Knabb, and Miss Louise Evans. The presiding officers included Mrs. Robert E. Brooke and Mrs. G. Walter Focht.

In 1924 the sum of \$123.10 was contributed to the repair fund and in 1928 the church bulletin board (listing services) was installed.

The auxiliary has contributed regularly for many years to the Nation Wide Campaign fund.

In 1936—contributions amounted to \$100 Nation Wide Campaign.

In 1939—the sum was \$200 Nation Wide Campaign.

Regular contributions have also been made to the United Thank Offering.

In more recent years the auxiliary has met regularly each month at the home of one of the members. The group elects a president, treasurer and secretary. Their business meetings are frequently followed by talks by the rector, reports of delegates, or group discussion. A social hour usually concludes the meeting.

The purpose of the auxiliary is to foster fellowship, maintain interest in the Mission of the Church, develop and train leaders and to stimulate work in parish groups.

Funds for various purposes are raised by the sale of small household items, public dinners, festivals, card parties, bake sales and donations.

Regular contributions are made to the following:

United Thank Offering, Church Home Fund, Supply Fund, Provincial Project, General Fund, Convocational special, Church objective, Bethlehem News.

Total contributions for 1950 amounted to \$395.87.

Delegates are regularly sent by the Auxiliary of St. Michael's to regional or district meetings. In the past year the following meetings were attended:

District Meeting—Christ Church, Reading, Pa.

May Spring Meeting—St. Paul's Church, Montrose, Pa.

Church Home Day—Jonestown, Pa.

Fall Conference—Hawthorne Inn, Mt. Pocono, Pa.

Fall Meeting of Reading Convocation—Allentown, Pa.

For the past few years clothing has regularly been collected and sent to the Interdenominational church center at New Windsor, Maryland. Clothing is also at times sent to Indian missions.

Members of the Auxiliary arrange for the placement of names in the "Book of Remembrance".

In December 1949 the Auxiliary helped to plan a dinner to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the ordination of our rector the Reverend Thomas B. Smythe.

On October 10, 1950, \$292.87 was made on a public turkey supper held for the benefit of the 100th Anniversary Fund. On November 10, the Auxiliary served dinner for the start of the annual Every Member Canvass.

At the present time there are twenty members in the Women's Auxiliary of St. Michael's:

Mrs. George Snyder, Mrs. Henry Rhodes, Mrs. Lulu Seigfried, Mrs. Burton B. Smith, Mrs. John Stehman, Mrs. Thomas B. Smythe, Mrs. Ada Kerst, Mrs. Howard Murray, Mrs. Walter Focht, Mrs. Gerald Deam, Mrs. George Hetrich, Mrs. Stephen Meier, Mrs. Robert Freeman, Mrs. Wm. Fornoff, Mrs. Gail Hook, Mrs. Lee Hook Mrs. Wm. McKinney, Mrs. John Rhoads, Mrs. Wm. Hiscock, Mrs. Robt. B. Smith.

Besides the Auxiliary there have been in the past, several other organizations for women and girls.

ST. AGNES GUILD

The earliest of these was the ST. AGNES GUILD—which we shall assume was operative prior to 1893; since records show that this group resumed meetings in that year. This was primarily a girls' group working in conjunction with the auxiliary and performing comparable services. A member of the auxiliary served as an advisor to the St. Agnes Guild. This group held various functions for the purpose of raising funds for missions.

In May of 1894 they sponsored a concert in the Auditorium (now Happel's Hardware Store) charging an admission of 20 cents with 5 cents for reserved seats. This together with proceeds from the sale of cake and ice cream cleared a profit of \$28. Shortly thereafter they entertained visiting members of the St. Barnabas choir from Reading.

In May 1895 a missionary box valued at \$221.20 was sent to Virginia.

As in the case of the auxiliary this group also received donations of material from Dives, Pomeroy and Stewart and Kline & Eppiheimer—Reading, for the purpose of making garments for missions.

In 1897 both the Auxiliary and St. Agnes Guild sent their work

to St. Mary's Indian Reservation, South Dakota. Such clothing was sent at times to the Church Home and to Georgia for colored folk.

In 1905 funds were provided by the St. Agnes Guild for repairing the Sacristy. The Guild room in the Reading Room was also provided with a carpet and furnished at this time.

During Mr. Vossler's Rectorship Mrs. Annie G. Willits, on behalf of the St. Agnes Guild, made a complete renovation of all the Altar Hangings and linens, completing some sets of hangings, and replacing others, so that the Church was well-supplied in every detail.

The St. Agnes Guild remained in operation until 1937, though written records of these years are not available and little is known of the group's activities during this period.

PARISH GUILD

On November 11, 1925 the PARISH GUILD was organized. This group held a card party on November 18, to raise funds for a piano for the Sunday School.

In 1927 Mrs. Marshall Post was elected president of the Parish Guild. Through the efforts of this organization lights were installed at the outside entrances of the church and chapel in 1928.

In 1936 they contributed \$50.00 to the Nation Wide Campaign, and assisted in improvements to the rectory.

As in the case of the St. Agnes Guild, this group remained organized until 1937.

At one time there was a Girls Friendly organization at St. Michael's—of which, unfortunately, there is no written record available. It is believed, however, that this group was in existence during the rectorship of the Reverend Mr. Vossler and his successor, the Reverend Mr. Osborn. Whether the Girls Friendly existed prior to, *or after this time is not certain.*

At present there are three active women's organizations at St. Michael's—namely, the Women's Auxiliary, the St. Agnes Altar Guild, and the Junior Service League.

The Altar Guild, known officially as the ST. AGNES ALTAR GUILD, is composed of eight members—the majority of whom are also members of the Auxiliary. It is the duty of each member to care for the altar for approximately two months during the year. She sees to it that the proper hangings and altar appointments are placed and that communion vessels are cared for, replenished, and placed in position for the service. The arrangement of floral tributes upon the altar is another duty. The Altar Guild relies solely upon donations of the church members for funds necessary for the purchasing of wafers, wine, and candles. This group is not only responsible for the placing of proper appointments but also for their care, preservation, and replacement.

The present membership of this organization includes:

Mrs. Thomas B. Smythe, president, Mrs. George Snyder, Mrs. Howard Murray, Mrs. William McKinney, Mrs. Henry Rhoads, Mrs. Gerald Deam, Mrs. Robert Smith, Mrs. James Shaner.

The most recently organized women's group at St. Michael's is the JUNIOR SERVICE LEAGUE. The Reverend Mr. Smythe was instrumental in planning for the organization of this group. On March 11, 1947, those young women of the parish interested in joining, met at the Reading Room, and a meeting was held for the election of officers. At this time Elizabeth Hart (Shaner) was elected president; Betty Marquet, secretary; Frances Ann Hook (Berstler) treasurer.

It was agreed that this group should hold monthly meetings at the homes of the various members, and should undertake to assume certain tasks then being carried on by the Women's Auxiliary and the Altar Guild. Among the responsibilities to be assumed by this new group was the distribution of names of church home children to Parish members for Christmas gifts, and the mailing or delivering of them to the Church Home at Jonestown at the Christmas season. They also undertook the sale of church calendars and assisted the Altar Guild in arranging a chart for the placement of flowers on the altar each Sunday of the year.

Besides these duties, the group holds functions for raising funds with which to purchase necessary or desired items for the church or Sunday School. At various times they have assisted other church groups in serving dinners, festivals, entertainment and decorations of the church at the Christmas season.

In 1948 the Junior Service League worked at various projects to raise funds for the purchase of hymnals for the church, choir, and organist. In 1949 this group presented a white stole to the rector. In December 1950 the League assisted other organizations within the church in planning a celebration of the rector's Twenty-fifth Anniversary of ordination.

During the current year the League is raising funds for the celebration of the church's One Hundredth Anniversary to be held in May.

The League holds regular monthly meetings throughout the year except during June, July and August. Following the business meeting the group frequently enjoys a talk by the Reverend Mr. Smythe. At times the group holds discussion periods on topics of interest. A brief social hour brings the meetings to a pleasant conclusion.

The present membership list of the Junior Service League of St. Michael's includes:

Mrs. Herman Berstler, Mrs. James Shaner, Mrs. Harold Hoffman, Mrs. Henry Rhoads, Mrs. Benjamin Morgan, Mrs. Webster Kropp, Miss Mary Werley, Mrs. William Smythe, Mrs. Raymer Kent, Mrs. John Herbein, Mrs. Paul Simpson.

Throughout the foregoing chapter an attempt has been made to emphasize the part played through the years by the women of the Parish in the growth and development of St. Michael's church.

MEN'S and BOYS' ORGANIZATIONS

A history is accurate and comprehensive only in so far as facts are accurate and available. Unfortunately records of men's and boys' organizations are not available earlier than the year 1880. From that time to 1901 there are a number of newspaper accounts of the activities of these organizations. From 1903 to 1936 accounts are missing.

In 1880 an organization, "The Church Guild" was effected by the young men of the church. The Reverend Edmund Leaf was the president; George W. Harrison, vice-president; Henry G. Hunter, treasurer; William deBrusstar, secretary. Eight years later The Reverend Mr. Leaf organized the "Guild of the Iron Cross"—an organization for younger boys of all denominations. Each member was presented with an iron cross symbolic of membership in this Christian organization.

Late in 1893 chapters of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew from nearby churches held a meeting in the Reading Room for the purpose of organizing a local chapter. It was not until November 1894 that the efforts of this meeting were realized when a chapter of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew was formally organized with a membership of eight. The chapter met weekly on Thursday evening and its purpose was to have its members pray daily and to try to bring at least one young man to church weekly. Corporate Communion were held monthly on the second Sunday. On a nation-wide basis the parent organization which was founded in 1883 now claims 1000 chapters with 13,000 members. The officers of the local unit were: the Reverend Benjamin Fish Thompson, president; Cyrus G. Henry, director; Harry E. Hart, secretary; Henry K. Harrison, treasurer. In March 1895 this group voted to raise funds by subscription and gifts to provide new Prayer Books and Hymnals for the church.

In the fall of 1895 the same officers were retained except Horace B. Evans replaced Henry K. Harrison as treasurer. The group continued to meet on Thursday evenings and during the summer met every second Sunday following the church school session.

In April 1894, the rector deemed it necessary to crusade against the evils of tobacco and he organized an anti-tobacco crusade among the boys of the community. Although this was not a movement concerned only with the boys of St. Michael's, nevertheless it is included here because it was sponsored by the rector and no doubt it included some of the boys of the church. The purpose was to have all the boys in town sign a pledge to refrain from the use of tobacco. Town dealers were accused of persistently breaking the law by selling cigarettes to

boys. A request was made to the local bands that one should offer to lead the parade when 500 boys had signed the pledge cards. This would show the town how many boys wanted to be real boys, able men and efficient citizens. Evidence of the success or failure of this venture is missing. Perhaps the tobacco men were also "music men" and the parade may never have taken place.

In January 1896, the Reverend Benjamin F. Thompson wanted the boys of the choir whose voices were changing to retain their contact with the church. Therefore, as an experiment, he organized them into a group to serve as ushers at morning and evening prayer and in such other duties as may be given them. Later the group formed a nucleus for "The Guild for Ushers". Records show that Harvey Bland, Roy Whitman, Samuel Nagle, Horace Painter, and Ernest Rhoads were among the first members of the guild. They held regular weekly meetings.

Activities of The Brotherhood from 1896 to 1901 included the promotion of social evenings in the Reading Room on Saturday evenings and occasional joint meeting with the chapter at Christ Church, Reading, June 1897. The records show an average attendance at the Saturday night meetings of 45-50 men. This number included the members of The Brotherhood and their guests. The total membership of The Brotherhood at this time probably did not exceed 10-12 members. Crokinole, the use of Indian clubs, dumbbells for setting-up exercises and other games made up the agenda for these social evenings. All men and choir boys of St. Michael's were welcome. Other men from the community attended these gatherings upon invitation only. Later this was amended to include "open house" to all men in the community but boys under 16 were not included. The schedule for these social evenings was changed somewhat and in January 1897 the Reading Room was open to the public on Thursday evening only. Saturday night was reserved for The Brotherhood. Others could attend upon invitation from one of the members. Lunch was served at the session on Saturday night.

Not only did The Brotherhood promote these social evenings but it also lent its efforts to the advertising of the church services. Notices of the church services were placed in the hotels and railroad stations. Cards were printed and circulated bearing invitations to attend the services. The members served as ushers and assisted the rector in working out a "pew assignment" chart. The long pews were divided into "five sittings" and the short into three. The members of the church retained the sitting they customarily used. This assignment was waived on special occasions and on Sunday nights when the congregation was composed largely of visitors. All seats, however, were at the disposal of the ushers after the service began.

The success of the social venture for the men of the community may be judged by the fact that in December 1898 the rector announced

that the Reading Room was too small and that plans would be made to add a gymnasium to the structure.

Officers of The Brotherhood elected in December 1898 were: William C. Garret, director; Elmer E. Townsend, secretary; and Cyrus G. Henry, treasurer. Apparently the Reverend Benjamin Fish Thompson continued to serve as the president.

By this time The Brotherhood was fairly well established and as an organization it began to meet with chapters from Christ Church and St. Barnabas Church, Reading. The chapter also sent delegates to attend the local Assemblies of The Brotherhood of St. Andrew in different cities along with delegates from Pottsville, Reading, and Lebanon.

In 1897 the local chapter entertained Alexander W. Hadden, Associate Secretary of the General Council of Brotherhood of St. Andrew. He discussed with the men the duty of prayer and the work for the spiritual good of all men.

The social evenings were discontinued during the summer months. However, in the fall of 1899, The Brotherhood again sponsored the social evenings for the men, added 100 new Prayer Books to the church pews and assisted with the installation of new carpet in the church. Accounts of the activities from 1899 to 1901 are missing but it may be assumed they continued in much the same vein as they did at the close of the century.

The officers elected in 1901 were; Daniel Hahn, director; Harry E. Hart, secretary; Lewis Steward, treasurer. For a number of years the Brotherhood continued to provide the ushers for the church services.

The records show that the plans for the annex to the Reading Room were realized and the last payment on the New Building was made in February 1903. The cost was between \$1800 and \$1900.

With the completion of the annex and because of the exclusion of younger boys from the social evenings on Thursday and Saturday nights the rector attempted to provide the boys with a room of their own in the basement of the new building. The exact date of the beginning of this venture is not available, but it may be assumed to have been in the fall of 1905. Within a few months, January 1906, the rector announced that the boys' club room would be closed "owing to the bad and destructive behavior of some boys." Information is lacking whether this venture was ever resumed or dropped permanently.

There are no records available of any men's organizations from 1903-1936 but in December 1936 the Reverend Daniel Osborn reported that a men's group had been organized. One meeting had been held and future meetings were planned. A report at the annual congregational meeting in March 1937 by William T. McKinney gave the status of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew. Harry E. Hart also reported

on a men's club. Details are lacking but these reports show the existence of these organizations.

Not until November 1945 do we find an effort to reorganize the men of the church. Daniel K. Miller called a meeting of the men. He provided the program and the lunch. No organization was immediately effected but the men expressed a desire to organize. In the spring of 1947 the rector, the Reverend Thomas B. Smythe, appointed Lee Hook as chairman to organize a men's group. Regular meetings were not scheduled but Mr. Hook was successful in arranging for the men to attend several laymen's meetings at Christ Church, Reading.

On December 13, 1948, because of the foundation laid by Daniel K. Miller and Lee Hook, the Men of St. Michael's was formally organized with John S. Herbein as the chairman and Daniel K. Miller as treasurer. The men agreed on the following objectives: to promote fellowship among the men of the church; to assist the rector with increasing the membership of the church; to arouse new interest in the church school; to invite new families to church; to assist with improvements to the church property. Regular meetings were held the second Monday of the month from September to May. Later this was changed to the third Tuesday of the month.

The first project undertaken by the group was the renovating of the kitchen in the Reading Room. Gerald Deam was the chairman of the committee in charge and was assisted by Lee Hook, Gail Hook, Daniel K. Miller, Webster Kropp, Burton Smith and William T. McKinney. Carpenters and plumbers were hired but the men did the painting, installed linoleum and removed the chimney. The project was completed in the spring of 1950 at a cost of approximately \$1000, including a new gas-range, the gift of Mrs. Charles D. Marshall.

In June 1949, the Men of St. Michael's assisted by the Woman's Auxiliary and the Junior Service League realized a profit of \$119 from a strawberry-ice cream festival. This amount was used as part payment on the kitchen renovations.

Other projects in which the members participated and helped plan were the Twenty-fifth Anniversary Dinner for the rector, the showing of the motion picture "King of Kings" for the community (March 1950) and a public card party in April 1950. Corporate communions have been held since the re-organization with breakfasts served in the Reading Room following the service. The Junior Service League and the Woman's Auxiliary prepared and served the breakfasts. The activities for 1950 closed with the May meeting when the group attended a night baseball game in Philadelphia. James Murray served as the chairman in charge of the arrangements.

In September, at the first meeting of the season Gerald Deam was elected vice-president, and Benjamin T. Morgan was elected secretary; Daniel K. Miller and J. S. Herbein were re-elected treasurer and

president. On September 30th, 1950 the men cooperated with the Woman's Auxiliary in serving and planning a turkey supper.

The programs at the regular meetings consisted of motion pictures of diocesan activities, talks by our rector on the symbolism of the church, talks by members of the group, and the entertaining of the men's club of St. Gabriel's, Douglassville in February 1950. The Men of St. Gabriel's reciprocated when eight members of St. Michael's were guests at their monthly meeting in November 1950.

In December 1950, through the leadership of our rector, the members constructed electric lights with which to decorate the entrances to the church and the Sunday School Room as well as a Christmas tree on the church lawn.

The Men of St. Michael's extend an invitation to all the men of the church to join the organization and participate in Christian Fellowship.

There are twenty-seven members in the organization. Webster Kropp, one of our members, is serving with the armed forces in Korea. The present membership includes:

Robert C. Brooke, Gerald Deam, Carl Derr, Hunter Geiger, Robert S. Grubb, Harry E. Hart, Harry L. Hart, John S. Herbein, Thomas E. Henry, John M. Hohl, Gail L. Hook, Lee K. Hook, George O. Hook, William C. Kelley, Webster C. Kropp, William E. McKinney, William T. McKinney, John D. Marquett, Daniel K. Miller, Benjamin G. Morgan, James Murray, Howard Murray, Richard Murray, George Nagle, Ernest Rhoads, Glenn Reeser, Burton B. Smith, Reverend Thomas B. Smythe, William Smythe, Leroy Yohn.

THE CHOIR

The Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, in 1857, attended a Church of England service in London, England, and said of the singing of the service:—"Effect of Sacred Music"; "I was dissolved—my whole being seemed to me like an incense wafted gratefully towards God".

The first newspaper item announcing the contemplated building of the Church appeared in the Berks and Schuylkill Journal issue of April 24, 1851. Neither that item nor a number of succeeding items made any reference to music, but, at the Consecration of the Church on February 12, 1853, the publicity included the interesting item that—"A Choir of amateur singers was assisted by a Gentleman from Reading".

A small reed organ was used and was located near the pulpit with the choir occupying the pews facing the organ. The singing included the chanting of the Psalms and the singing of Hymns. The first use of hymns in religious services was by the Evangelical Churches and was frowned on by the Episcopalians.

No records are available of the use of music in St. Michael's, but

it must be assumed that music was a part of the services for the Rev. Mr. Leaf published a paragraph on Church Music in his pamphlet "Now and Then" under the date of Christmas 1872. He remarks on the efficiency of our Chorister, Mr. Fisher, and the Organist, Edward Alderman. He made a plea for a new and larger organ. Reference is made to the instructing of Choir boys.

On the afternoon of Easter day, April 5, 1874, Bishop Howe visited St. Michael's for the rite of Confirmation. "The service began with 'Onward, Christian Soldiers', as the processional—the music throughout by the boy choir of fifteen voices, being Churchly and hearty".

The beautiful hymn "I would not live away" was sung by the choir at the funeral service in St. Michael's of Edward Brooke, December 30, 1878.

The new pipe organ was dedicated February 15, 1882, with the Choir of Christ Church, Reading, and the organist Prof. E. A. Berg, participating in the service. "The fine music will never be forgotten by those present."

In October 1887, the old organ, which for many years did duty in the Church, was installed in the Cemetery Chapel. It formerly belonged to Rev. Wm. Muhlenberg who composed "I would not live away" and furnished music in Christ Church, Reading, and other prominent churches in Reading and in Lancaster.

While there is no record of the use of music at the funeral of the Rev. Edmund Leaf held on June 20, 1891, it must be assumed that the service would not have been complete without music in-as-much as he had founded the Church, organized the musical services and secured the original organ.

There are few names available of the many persons who assisted with the music during the Rev. Mr. Leaf's Rectorship. At one time the choir consisted of Mrs. Enos Alderman, Richard Stanley, David Lincoln and his daughter, Clara. For many years Edward Alderman served as organist, John Gooder filled in several years in the late "eighties", and John Bland was serving as organist when the Rev. Benj. F. Thompson assumed the Rectorship in 1891. Miss Nellie Leaf filled in at the organ in both the Church and Sunday School, at times. Other singers included:—Jacob Shaner, Thomas C. Seidel, Frank Alderman, Charles Young, Cyrus G. Henry, the Misses Agnes and Julia Young and Mrs. Araminta Smith.

Under date of October 1, 1891, there is an item on the wedding of Blair Lee and Annie Clymer Brooke:—"The bridal party entered the Church at 12:30 o'clock preceded by the Choir of Christ Cathedral consisting of 24 men and boys in vestments singing the processional hymn".

The Rev. Benjamin Fish Thompson assumed the Rectorship of St. Michael's on October 1, 1891, and was in residence on November first.

Among his many excellent qualities was that of a talented musician. He conceived the idea of a boys' and men's vested choir but he realized that the Church appointments were neither suitable nor adequate to accommodate them in a proper setting. He discussed the proposition with Mr. George Brooke and received the reply "that if he would organize and instruct the choir, the chancel would be extended and choir stalls installed at the expense of Mr. Brooke".

Accordingly, at the call of the Rector, Monday night Feb. 15, 1892, the following boys met and were chosen for St. Michael's Choir:—Harvey Bland, Joseph Smith, George Henry, Clayton Hoffmaster, Frank Humphrey, Samuel Nagle, Percy Miller, Horace Painter, Edward Albright, Burton Smith, James Humphrey, Robert Hook, Leroy Whitman and John Hartline; Tenors:—Horace Evans, Harry Hook, Frank Luft, Walter Alderman, Clayton Stoner and Ralph Bacon; Basses:—Albert Vanaman, Charles Young, Samuel Hain, John Ancona, William L. Rabaugh and Frank Alderman. By May 27 the men began to rehearse with the boys. The rehearsals were conducted at least twice weekly and for the duration of at least one and one half hour, the first half hour for the boys to get "tuned up" by running the scale in several pitches to the accompaniment of an organ played by the Rector. Boys had no previous training in school in those days.

During the period of preparation the organ keyboard was changed from the transept to the present location back of the choir stalls; arrangements for vestments included the raising of \$100.00 and the making of the vestments by the ladies of the Church. The Rector explained that the cassock was the long black gown and the cotta the short white one.

Sunday, November 6, 1892, the Choir sang for the first time in the Church at the evening service. It was St. Michael's first vested Choir that followed Leroy Kissinger, the Crucifer bearing a wooden processional cross, up the Church aisle to their places in the Choir stalls.

The Choir boys were required to sign a set of rules and their parents were asked to sign the same rules. The rules were rigid but reasonable: covering cleanliness, neatness, attendance at all services and rehearsals. Swearing resulted in suspension or dismissal, and the use of tobacco was strictly prohibited and forbidden," as time is but wasted in training boys who use it." Brown or yellow shoes did not match with the vestments and were forbidden. Members were instructed to face the altar for the Gloria and the recital of the Creed, with the bowing of the head at the name of Jesus Christ. They were to join with the congregation in reciting the versicles and A-mens.

A Choir Guild was organized early in 1893 for all active and past members of the choir. Past members resulted from a ruling that boys would not be permitted to sing while their voices were changing. Many

of them continued active by pumping the organ during that period. Meetings were held every Thursday night in the Reading Room.

New hymnals were put to use in 1894 and there was a monthly Festal Service at Evensong. The first midnight service for Christmas was held in 1893 with the processional always being "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear".

Nine boys were awarded Choir Badges for not being absent or tardy during Lent in 1894. At Easter a new processional cross was used for the first time:—"In Memoriam—Charles H. Young, Chorister, Obit. Jan. 12, 1894".

Volunteer subscribers provided funds at regular periods for the upkeep of the Choir vestments.

On May 24, 1894, the Choir of St. Barnabas Church, Reading, joined with St. Michael's Choir for a Choir Festival Service. The members of the combined Choirs numbered sixty. A silver offering amounting to \$7.50 was lifted for the Choir outing fund. Early in the month of June the Choir paid a return visit to St. Barnabas. The trip was made in a big wagon due to the lack of late train service from Reading.

The first Choir Outing was a week long trip early in July 1894 to Barnegat City, N. J. The party consisted of 20 boys and men whose only expense was the car fare. The annual outings have continued to this day with a break here and there due to economic and war conditions.

Starting October 3, 1894, the Rector published monthly attendance records of the boys. The newest boys had the best record.

Roy Kissinger served but a short time as Crucifer for he was of more value as a singer. Harry Dengler, a devout and popular young man, served as Crucifer for several years until he fell a victim of Typhoid fever and passed away on January 20, 1895. There was general mourning among the members of the Choir and congregation and he was buried from the Church with members of the Choir serving as pallbearers. Edward Albright was appointed the new Crucifer.

The Choir was a busy organization that year. They sang at a concert in the Birdsboro Auditorium on Washington's birthday, conducted a concert in the Reading Room and a Lawn Party in June raising \$23.20 for the outing fund. But \$125.00 was needed so the Rector appointed Ada Neiman and Lulu Seigfried as collectors to visit the Church members for contributions. Mrs. George Brooke usually made up any balance needed. The outing was held early in July, rates being lower in that month, at the Glenwood Hotel, Cape May. The trip was made by train to Philadelphia, thence by Steamer Republic to Cape May Point and trolley to Cape May. The party included 16 boys and 10 men. Men usually paid their own expenses.

The Organist John R. Bland resigned on July 17 to accept a like position at St. John's Church, Carlisle, and to teach music at Dickinson College.

Cyrus G. Henry was elected Organist on November 27 and continued to serve in that capacity until his death, a period of over twenty-five years.

During the interval between Bland's leaving and Henry's appointment the organ was taken by Cy Henry, and on August 25, the Organist of Christ Church, Reading, with four men and 16 boys made a pleasant surprise visit joining in a musical service. The fellowship among the members of the two Choirs led to the playing of Birdsboro's first football game on Thanksgiving Day 1895. It was a game of Rugby and was played and won by Christ Church Choir on the Clingan Lawn. Following the game the boys were entertained in the Charles Clingan mansion with tea and cookies—imagine the appetites of those boys following a game of football being satisfied with tea and cookies. The line-up of St. Michael's Choir:—Rush line:—B. F. Thompson, Cy Henry, Charles Goheen, Roy Whitman, Chester Rhoads and Samuel Nagle; Quarter Back:—Ed Albright and Robert Hook; Half Back:—Burt Smith and Frank Luft; Full Back:—Roy Kissinger; and Captain, Rev. B. F. Thompson. The names of the Christ Church team are not available but Louis J. Heizmann, Reading, has said that he played in that game.

Continuing that fellowship, the boys of Christ Church Choir sang at the midnight service at Christmas 1895 and stayed with St. Michael's boys over night.

In 1896, a St. Christopher's Guild was organized in which the older Choir boys were assigned to serve as ushers. Already the outing fund was started with a Magic Lantern Show attended by 100 persons producing \$8.50 and this was followed with a festival in June that netted \$17.00. The success as collectors of Ada Neiman and Lulu Seigfried necessitated, again, their services so that the party of 16 men and boys could have their annual outing to Cape May in July.

The Organist, Cy Henry, made a water motor to pump the pipe organ that proved satisfactory for a time but the organ pumpers were soon back on the job.

On May 1, 1897, the Rector entertained the members at a picnic in the woods, and on July 28 Choir members and guests journeyed to Cape May via the W. & N. R. R. to Wilmington and Steamer Republic for the annual outing.

Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Kissinger entertained the Choir at their home on November 10, and on February 21, 1898, Mr. and Mrs. Ammon Albright served a fried oyster dinner in honor of Ed Albright's birthday anniversary.

John Bland, former Organist, returned for a visit on the Sunday after Easter. He played the organ and was accompanied by three soprano voices from St. John's, Carlisle. He favored the congregation with a vocal solo during the service.

The Rector, again, presented medals to seven boys for perfect

attendance during Lent, and on May 18 presented Fred Bush, Warren Kline and Wid Marshall with watches for perfect attendance for six months covering 113 services and rehearsals. The rates for the annual outing to Cape May were \$2.50 for the train and boat with \$5.00 for board. It was in that year that several of the boys were not permitted to go along on the boat due to the scare of the Spanish Fleet entering Delaware Bay and sinking the old Republic.

The extra activities continued with St. Barnabas Choir joining in a festival service in September and St. Michael's visit to Churchtown in November. That trip was made on a hay-flat one Sunday afternoon, the members not getting home until long after midnight. The supper at the Church was outstanding.

By March 1899 the boys were getting remiss in their attendance, so much so that the Rector visited the parents of absentees on Monday mornings.

Christ Church Choir, Pottstown, joined in a midweek service on May 25 and were served with refreshments in the Reading Room.

Mrs. George Brooke entertained the Choir with a chicken dinner on June 21 at the Yellow House. Farm wagons provided the transportation. The Advice of the Rector for the trip to Cape May was that the boys' straw hats be provided with a cord and tied to the lapel of the coat and that parents not give the boys too much spending money. That was unnecessary for money was scarce. One boy received his first dollar from his father. Another had 72 cents and lost that, but the other boys chipped in the full amount of the loss and he returned with the 72 cents at the end of the week.

There were some complaints from boys unable to accompany the outing due to sickness, injury or other causes. And since Choir attendance was none too good, the Rector decided to pay the boys in lieu of the outing. The rate was $2\frac{1}{2}$ cents per rehearsal and 5 cents per service. Some boys drew over five dollars for a year's attendance—the first five dollars they ever had.

Late in the year Walter Shirey organized and trained boys for "St. Michael's Guards". They trained with broom-sticks but the movement was short-lived.

On Palm Sunday 1900, Roy Kissinger sang the tenor solo in "Rejoice Greatly O Daughter of Zion" and the Rector sang the solo of "The Palms". The first Choir photograph was taken on Thanksgiving Day 1900. For perfect attendance November 1 to June 1, 1901, Lee Hook and Gail Hook were presented with "Sea Tales" and "Leather Stocking Tales".

The annual outings to Cape May were resumed in 1901. In the early fall the St. Michael's Choral Society was formed with the Rev. Mr. Thompson serving as Director and Cy Henry as Organist. The men and boys of the Choir formed the nucleus of the organization, and a



THE CHOIR—THANKSGIVING DAY 1900

Front Row—Bertric Thompson, William F. Marshall, Stockett Thompson, Samuel Rhoads, Clarence Hoffman, Paul Kochenberger, Gail L. Hook, Warren Kline, George Eselbey, Lee K. Hook, Howard Eselbey, Luther Miller, Clyde Rothermel. *Center Row*—George Green, John H. Reeser, Raymond A. Huyett, George S. Riegner, Daniel K. Miller, George Brooke, 3rd. *Back Row*—George Cox, Samuel Nagle, Burton B. Smith, Daniel L. Hahn, Frank Arters, Rev. B. F. Thompson, Frank Luft, J. Edmund Kerst, LeRoy Kissinger, Cyrus G. Henry.

number of girls joined the movement. The first festival service was rendered on November 27, 1901.

The Choral Society visited Christ Church, Pottstown, on the evening of April 10, 1902, and sang the cantata "The Risen King". The group numbered 36 and they were entertained with tea and cookies. "The Nativity" was rendered by the same group in St. Michael's on December 28. The girls of the Choral Society were:—Dora Hook, Erma Weidel, Ethel Kline, Bertha Geiger, Blanche Geiger, Lulu Seigfried, Sue Riegner, Eva Sands, Helen Sands, Stella Kline, Mayme Alderman, Blanche Weidel, Lorena Vanaman, Anna Hook, Millie Mast, Laura Nagle, Helen Franciscus, Hattie Franciscus and Savilla Painter.

"The Brexton", Cape May was the Choir headquarters for the 1902 outing.

On October 29 a water motor was installed to pump the organ.

An early start was made on February 7, 1903, in raising money for the outing by holding a public supper in the Birdsboro Auditorium. The Choir cleared \$110.60 with the help of all the congregation.

The Rector preferred to be addressed as Father Thompson and most of the members of the Choir and congregation addressed him in that manner. That led to the Choir boys being called "Father Thompson's little lambs". Most of the boys were anything but lambs but none of them strayed far enough to be one of the black variety. He always insisted on the wearing of the cassock when rehearsing in the Church. And the girls heads had to be covered whenever in Church.

The first regular use of the girls in the Choir was during the mid-week Lenten services in 1903. That was a result of the shortage of boys. For perfect attendance December 1 to Easter, badges were awarded to Lee Hook, Gail Hook, Clyde Rothermel, Guy Bierman and Paul Kochenberger.

The girls were established members of the Choir by that time. They conducted a festival, cleared \$46.00 and joined the outing to "The Brexton", Cape May.

Mrs. George Brooke entertained 38 members of the Choir at the Brooke residence on January 25, 1904. Dora Hook and Erma Weidel were appointed collectors for repairs and replenishment of the vestments. The Brexton again entertained the members at the annual outing. On October 6 there was a Choir supper held in the Reading Room under the management of young ladies, followed by dancing to the music of Kline's orchestra.

The first record of repairs to the pipe organ was on December 7, 1904, when extensive repairs were made.

A Choir Social was held February 2, 1905, with each member being entitled to bring two guests. The girls prepared refreshments for the 60 members and guests. May 4, 1905, the Choir sang at the Confirmation service at St. Gabriel's, Douglassville, travelling by Penna. Railroad trains. Rogation Day, May 28, the vested Choir sang at the Cemetery with the processional starting from the Chapel.

The Rector announced that there would be no outing to the seashore that year because the funds were needed for vestments. Nevertheless, 31 members were taken for a one day's outing to Willow Grove Park, Philadelphia.

In September the organ was out of service due to dampness causing leaks in the bellows. The cellar ceiling, under the organ, was plastered. Then, in October, the Rector complained of the poor attendance of the boys and talked of using girls.

Early in 1906, Robert Grubb was appointed Librarian of the Choir and Lee Hook, Assistant; Gail Hook and William Shanaman, Acolytes. The Rector and Mrs. Thompson made a trip to Europe in the fall and Cy Henry directed the Choir.

In May 1907, the Rev. Mr. Thompson resigned the Rectorship and the Choir lost his able leadership. Cy Henry, Organist, ever faithful, took the Choir. That led to his arranging and conducting an outing

on September 14, to Mauch Chunk, with the assistance of Harry E. Hart who often joined the outings.

The Choir sang at the Confirmation service at St. Mary's, Warwick, November 9.

During the following winter a number of social events were enjoyed. There were socials, with orchestra and dancing, held in the Reading Room, and Mrs. George Brooke and Mayme Alderman entertained at their respective homes.

With the arrival of the new Rector, the Rev. Francis Yarnall, all were pleased to learn that he was an accomplished musician and well qualified to direct the Choir where the Rev. Mr. Thompson left off. One of the first actions that made him popular with the Choir was the resumption of the annual seashore outing; six days at the Windsor Hotel was quite a treat. Mrs. George Brooke sent with the Rector a dollar for each one of the girls. The boys were ignored but "swiped" some of the refreshments the girls had accumulated for a midnight party. George Brooke 3rd entertained with two yachting parties and all joined in attending the dances at the larger hotels. Shield's bath-houses continued to be used.



THE CHOIR—OCTOBER 18, 1908

Front—Harold Lytle, Elhannan Mast. *Second Row*—Mary Alderman, Ethel Haws, Katherine Geiger, Rhoda Kline, Mary Sands, Pearl Franciscus, Lulu Seigfried, Hattie Painter, Francina Franciscus, Agnes S. Armour, Ethel Kline, Dora Hook, Lydia Knabb, *Third Row*—Charles Phillipson, C. Wayne Sands, Burton B. Smith, Lewis Rothermel, Gail L. Hook, Lloyd Sands. *Fourth Row*—Albert Vanaman, Brantly S. Duddy, Frank Luft, James Findley, Raymond Prutzman, Frank Arters, Cyrus G. Henry, Lee K. Hook, D. Heber Geiger, William F. Marshall, Daniel K. Miller, Charles Brooke, Charles Armour. *Back Row*—Douglass Burke, Rev. Francis Yarnall.

Under the new Rector the Choir took on new life with a number of new men singers in the Choir. Another Choir photograph was taken on October 18. The Choir was at its best with much of solo work by the Rector, Brantly Duddy, Dulcie Davis and Francina Franciscus. A number of the girls qualified to do solo work but they were too modest, confining their efforts to the chorus.

The Choir of Holy Trinity Memorial Church, Philadelphia, visited St. Michael's Wednesday night, June 23, 1909, and rendered the sacred cantata "Conversion".

The Choir festival in June helped raise enough money for the members to spend eight days at Congress Hall, Cape May. That outing was long remembered for Charlie Brooke's yachting parties and the "horse race" through the long corridors of old Congress Hall in the wee hours of the morning of the last night.

William F. Marshall, better known as "Wid", died following a long illness and was buried from the Church with the Rev. Benj. F. Thompson officiating on October 10, 1911. He was very popular and always faithful in his choir duties.

Another boy who rendered valuable services, even though he was not a member of the Choir, was George R. Hetrich. He always tolled the Church bell for the Lenten services when the Sexton was at work and unavailable.

The past Rectors always insisted on the members keeping to the end of the stalls facing the congregation for a small number scattered through the stalls did not appear Churchy.

The Choir welcomed the new Rector, the Rev. Harry Howe Bogert, in February 1912. He set up an easel and with a baton started to direct the Choir. Only too soon he learned that they were experienced singers and the members learned that he was not an accomplished Director. Thereafter Cy Henry directed the Choir but the good Rector seldom missed a rehearsal.

The members enjoyed a number of socials throughout the year in the Reading Room, held the customary festival in June, and the outing to Ocean City.

The new year of 1913 started quietly, but it was only the calm that preceded the storm. The Rector insisted that the members of the Choir refrain from taking communion at the 10:30 service on the first Sunday of the month but that they attend the early service. They felt that the Rector's new rules, especially No. 3, "Choristers are not to make their celebration at the 10:30 A. M. communion", were not justified for they were rendering volunteer service at two Sunday services, midweek Lenten services and at several weekly rehearsals. At the Sunday morning service on February 2 the Choir stalls were empty, several members of the Choir sat in the pews, but all were present for duty at the evening service. Following that service, Cyrus

G. Henry, Organist, talked with the Rector in an effort to having rule No. 3 removed but the Rector refused and the Organist resigned. Several days later the Choir held a meeting and all resigned. The Rector called it a "strike". During the week, the Reading papers carried articles about the so-called tempest and an editorial appeared in the Philadelphia Telegraph under the heading of "Director, not Dictator". By the end of the week the rules were removed and the Choir resumed their duties.

On February 10, 1913, the 87th birthday anniversary of Enos Alderman, the first Sexton of the Church, the Choir joined in the birthday party at the invitation of Mary Alderman. Mrs. Lydia Knabb Latshaw, a former member, had a party for the Choir at their farm two miles south of Spring City. The trip was made by rail and farm wagons from Spring City. There was a new arrangement for paying the expenses for the annual outing to Cape May in August. Each member was credited for their attendance and penalized for non-attendance. Some paid as much as four dollars for their dereliction.

During the early part of 1914, the Choir held a series of private dances in the Main Street Hall, previously the Methodist Church. There was a very poor Choir on the Bishop's visitation in April. The Choir was losing members, one died, several removed from town and marriage ended the service of others.

A visit was made to St. Mary's, Warwick, on May 31, and to St. Mark's, Church Hill, on June 28. The latter trip was made in John Lutz's local express horse-drawn wagon and Frank Brown's auto truck. The usual festival and outing to The Raleigh, Ocean City, was the last Choir outing for many years. December 28, a farewell party was held for Brantly S. Duddy in the Reading Room.

The Choir continued to serve during the next few years but the start of the first World War resulted in the loss of several members, and by the end of 1917 there were not many left, the Choir went out of existence shortly thereafter. The old reliable Organist, Cy Henry, continued at the organ until his death in the early twenties.

With the arrival of the Rev. Arthur B. Vossler, the new Rector, the Choir was reorganized in the spring of 1924 through the efforts of Burton B. Smith. Miss Ruth Smith, who had received organ instructions from her uncle, Cy Henry, continued at the organ. The first paid singer for the Choir was employed in October 1924; by April 1926, three paid singers were receiving two dollars each per Sunday but payments were discontinued in the fall of 1928. The Rector directed the Choir for some time when Charles E. Cotton took over the direction. Upon the marriage of Ruth Smith, Mrs. Harvey Kulp served as organist until her resignation in August 1930. The Choir rendered excellent service and a spirit of good-fellowship existed among the members. A Hallowe'en party in the Reading Room was an enjoyable affair. A

festival was held in 1926 and Mr. Edward Brooke made a generous contribution to the outing fund so that the Choir spent July 2-3-4 at the Monticello Hotel, Atlantic City. The trip was made in private automobiles over the Philadelphia Delaware River bridge that had opened for traffic the previous day.

Gradually the girls dropped out of the Choir, Mrs. Martin Seifert was employed as Organist and Lewis R. Kains, Reading, as Director. In September 1932, Edward Albright organized a Boys Choir with the following members:—Choir Mother, Mrs. Esther K. Phillips, Delbert W. Smith, Dewey Amole, Philip Burke, Lewis Carter, Thomas C. Cotton, Leslie Franciscus, Lewis M. Grant, William Hook, George Hook, Richard Huyett, Robert W. Myers, Morris S. Myers, Benjamin G. Morgan, Edgar W. Musser, Daniel W. Pleam, Glenn A. Reeser, Robert H. Reeser, Harry G. Painter and Raymer Kent. The men continued to sing with the Choir. At rehearsals Kains gave the boys lollipops and other candy; Ed Albright awarded watches and other gifts for regular attendance. One day outings were made to Atlantic City, Riverview Beach on the Delaware, etc.

The Rev. Daniel C. Osborn, Rector in charge, took a great interest in the work of the Choir and attended all rehearsals and social meetings. Following the resignation of Lewis R. Kains on December 31, 1936, Mrs. Osborn assumed the directorship of the Choir. At that time the membership was composed of a number of young girls, several older boys and a scattering of men. Using the difficult music of past years was out of the question so most of the music was discarded and the singing was in unison.

At a social evening in the Reading Room in October 1937 the members of the Choir presented Daniel K. Miller with a silver cross in recognition of 40 years faithful service.

In the fall of 1938 Mrs. Osborn resigned and was succeeded by Mrs. Robert Anderson who rendered excellent service for the next two years. On November 14, 1940, Mrs. Seifert, Organist, was made temporary Director at a small increase in salary. During that year a number of new vestments were purchased, and the Choir operated a refreshment stand on Church street during the Birdsboro 200th Anniversary. Rev. Irving A. McGrew, the Rector, took a lively interest in the Choir and attended the rehearsals for a time until other interests claimed his time on rehearsal night. He accompanied the outings to Atlantic City for several years. Mrs. McGrew and her daughters, Ethel and Mary, were staunch members of the Choir.

The Second World War put a stop to the seashore outings so they were confined to one day events: a Clam Bake and social evening, a dinner and a night at the Daniel Boone Homestead, a dinner in Reading and attending Barnum & Bailey's Circus, a trip to Hershey Park and a dinner at the Laurel Locks restaurant.

In an attempt to improve the quality of Choir music, Mrs. Jane Stetler, Supervisor of Music in the Birdsboro Public Schools, was employed as Choir Director in February 1944. She resigned in October to be with her husband in the United States Army. Mrs. Thomas B. Smythe, a member of the Choir for the past two years, volunteered her services and displayed a keen insight in the traditions and execution of the Church music. The hymnals in use were the gift of the Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem but they were replaced by the 1940 issue as a gift of the Junior Service League. Mrs. Laura Seifert resigned as Organist at the end of October, and Mrs. Ruth Smith Lutz returned to the organ after an absence of nearly 20 years.

The Choir worked along smoothly although handicapped by a shortage of members. Only at Christmas and Easter were the stalls filled. The seashore outings were resumed in 1947 with a three days' stay at the Y. M. C. A. Lodge at Avalon, N. J. For the next three years Avalon attracted the annual outings.

During the month of October another social was held in the Reading Room, when a combination purse and cardcase was presented Dan Miller on the 50th anniversary of his joining the Choir.

January 13, 1948, the Choir received \$900.00 under the will of the late Mrs. Ella Fair Hengst. While never a member of the Choir, she enjoyed the music and appreciated their work. \$100.00 was added from the treasury and invested in a Savings Bond with the interest going to the outing fund.

Carl L. Derr also Supervisor of Music in the Public Schools was employed to direct the Choir on October 12, 1948, and injected a new spirit in the organization. With the addition of some new members he made it possible to sing an anthem at nearly every service and to render cantatas on special occasions. At Christmas 1950 the cantata "Gloria in Excelsis" with music from Felix Mendelssohn was used. An enjoyable party was held in the Reading Room on December 29 to complete the activities of the year.

In concluding this rather lengthy history there are some things that have not been recorded such as the visit to St. Thomas Church, Morgantown, with the chicken dinner at the home of Dr. Heber Plank about the turn of the century, a joint service at Christ Church, Reading, and joining with the Choirs of other Birdsboro Churches for special services.

A huge song festival was held at Valley Forge June 19, 1903, in conjunction with the dedication of a memorial when Gov. Samuel Pennypacker was the orator. Our Choir joined with many other Choirs from the Schuylkill Valley in rehearsing under the direction of a Mr. Roberts, joining in the procession and singing with the combined Choirs. On the same day the cornerstone was laid for the Valley Forge Chapel, and the Rev. Mr. Burk invited our Choir to join with the other Episco-



THE CHOIR—EASTER DAY 1950

Front Row—John Herbein, Jr., Frances Scatchard, Kay Yoder, Rita Freeman, Florence Crosby, Patricia Reasner, Mrs. Ruth Lutz, John Yoder. *Second Row*—Grace Hetrich, Jane Leininger, Helen Mundell, May L. Bernard, Patricia Grubb, Betty Kelly, Patricia Ehrgood, Mrs. Thomas B. Smythe, Rev. Thomas B. Smythe. *Third Row*—Daniel K. Miller, Richard Murray, George Hook, James Murray, Mark Freeman, William Smythe, Carl Derr.

palian Choirs in the musical part of the ceremony.

The pipe organ was completely overhauled in 1940 and more adhesive tape used on the bellows to seal the air leaks. During the last few years the bellows was replaced with an air reservoir and the pitch of the organ was reduced one half a tone. The third photograph of the Choir was taken at Easter 1950.

While the Choir has never had an organization of officers the finances required the services of a treasurer and Miss Lulu Seigfried filled that position from 1924, when the members paid 25 cents a month dues, until 1936 and Daniel K. Miller succeeded to the position.

The Choir has served as a rich source of membership for St. Michael's. Past members are proud of their connection with the Choir and delight to reminisce with their fellow members. The names of the members who sang under Father Thompson are recorded in his scrap book, but, since his time, there is no complete record. Names have been secured from photographs and from the memory of past members. A roster of members has been appended with sincere apologies to any who may have been missed or overlooked.

ROSTER OF MEN AND BOYS OF ST. MICHAEL'S CHOIR—1870-1951

CRUCIFERS

*LeRoy Kissinger
 *Harry Dengler
 Edward Albright
 *George Coxe
 *Warren Kline
 John H. Reeser
 Douglass Burke
 *Roy Harner
 David Murray
 Ward Coburn, Jr.
 George Lineker
 *Charles Burke
 Philip Burke
 Charles Cotton, Jr.
 Edward Albright
 *Robert Albright
 *Edward Alderman
 *Frank Alderman
 Walter Alderman
 Dewey Amole
 *John Ancona
 *Chester A. Arters
 Edgar M. Arters
 Frank Arters
 Ralph Arters
 Charles Armour
 Elmer Auman
 David Bacon
 Ralph Bacon
 Roy Bacon
 Guy Bierman
 *Harvey Bland
 *John Bland
 Charles Brooke
 George Brooke, 3rd
 Edwin Brown
 Leon Brusstar
 *Charles Burke
 Philip Burke
 Fred Bush
 G. Lewis Carter
 *Robert Conner
 Charles E. Cotton
 Charles Cotton, Jr.

Thomas C. Cotton
 Fred Crosby
 George Crosby
 *George Coxe
 *Howard C. Deam
 Jannar Delaquito
 Leonard Delaquito
 *Harry Dengler
 Raymond Dengler
 Carl L. Derr
 Claude Diffinderfer
 Owen DuBell
 *Brantly S. Duddy
 Millard Eppihimer
 Charles Eselbey
 George Eselbey
 *Howard Eselbey
 *Horace Evans
 *James Findley
 *Mr. Fisher
 Charles Foreman
 William E. Fornoff
 Mark Freeman
 Andrew Freeman
 Albert Fritz
 *D. Heber Geiger
 Hunter K. Geiger
 *Charles A. Goheen
 Lewis M. Grant
 *George Green
 William Griffith
 Robert S. Grubb
 *Daniel L. Hahn
 Harry L. Hart
 *Samuel Hain
 *John Hartline
 *Cyrus G. Henry
 *George Henry
 *Kurtie Henry
 Russell Henry
 *Velmer Henry
 John Herbein, Jr.
 George Hetrich
 *Clarence Hoffman
 William E. Hoffman

*Denotes Deceased.

- Clayton Hoffmaster
 Gail L. Hook
 *Harry Hook
 George O. Hook
 Lee K. Hook
 Robert Hook
 William L. Hook
 Winfield Hummel
 Frank Humphrey
 James Humphrey
 *Raymond A. Huyett
 Richard C. Huyett
 Howard Jones
 Lewis R. Kains
 Davis Keinard
 Raymer Kent
 *J. Edmund Kerst
 *LeRoy Kissinger
 George Kline
 Thornton Kline
 *Warren Kline
 Weldon Kline
 Paul Kochenberger
 *Harvey H. Kring
 Steward Krum
 George Kulp
 Roy Kulp
 Francis Lange
 William Lange
 *David Lincoln
 Arthur Long
 Leslie Franciscus
 *B. Frank Luft
 Ethelbert Luft
 *Lloyd Lykens
 Paul Lykens
 Joseph Lynch
 Harold Lytle
 Paul McKinney
 William E. McKinney
 William T. McKinney
 Robert Manwiller
 *Samuel Marshall
 *William F. Marshall
 John D. Marquet
 Daniel K. Miller
 *Luther S. Miller
 *Percy Miller
 Roy Miller
 *Benjamin G. Morgan
 David Murray
 Howard Murray
 James Murray
 Richard Murray
 Edgar W. Musser
 Morris S. Myers
 Robert W. Myers
 *Samuel Nagle
 Harry G. Painter
 Horace Painter
 Cleon Paul
 Charles Phillipson
 Daniel W. Pleam
 Raymond Prutzman
 Harold Potts
 *William Rabaugh
 Luther Redcay
 Glenn Reeser
 John H. Reeser
 Robert Reeser
 Chester Rhoads
 Ernest S. Rhoads
 Samuel Rhoads
 *George S. Riegner
 Clyde Rothermel
 *Lewis Rothermel
 Edward Sands
 Lloyd Sands
 *C. Wayne Sands
 Thomas C. Seidel
 *Jacob Shaner
 Levi F. Shaner
 *LeRoy Shirey
 Elmer Shanaman
 *William Shanaman
 Burton B. Smith
 Delbert W. Smith
 James Smith
 Joseph Smith
 Robert B. Smith
 Robert M. Smith
 *Richard Stanley
 *Harry Steinmetz
 Clayton Stoner
 *Chester Straway
 Austin Swavely
 John Smythe
 William Smythe
 *Betrice Thompson
 Stockett Thompson
 Warren Trate
 *Albert Vanaman
 *G. Arthur Wamsher
 *Claude Wamsher
 *LeRoy Whitman
 Edward Worsnip
 John Yoder
 Stanley S. Yoder
 Stanley Yoder, Jr.
 *Charles Young

*Denotes Deceased.

The Edward Brooke Reading Room

Edward Brooke, one of the founders of St. Michael's Church, died on Christmas Day 1878. He served on the Church Vestry until the time of his death, was intimately interested in the religious and business work of the Church and made possible, with moral and financial support, the building of the Sunday School Chapel, Rectory and the creation of the Cemetery.

It was only fitting that a memorial should be erected to keep alive, for all time, the memory of this man who was devoted to St. Michael's and to the people of the community in which he lived and loved so well.

To that end, the Brooke family, with the assistance and advice of the Rector, the Rev. Edmund Leaf, decided to erect a Parish building for the general use of the congregation and to serve the people of the community as a library or Reading Room. About that time reading rooms had become quite popular in the larger towns.

The name chosen for the building was "The Edward Brooke Reading Room" although there are several references to "The Edward Brooke Memorial Reading Room". At the present time the building is referred to merely as The Reading Room.

The work of construction was started in 1881 and continued through the next year with the building completed and furnished and formally opened on the last day of December 1882. The opening program included an appropriate address by George F. Baer, Esquire, of Reading.

The two spacious rooms were provided with leading papers, magazines and other reading matter. By the end of the first week it was well attended and proved to be a great success. By the end of the second week it was necessary to purchase additional tables and other furniture to accommodate the greatly increased number of patrons.

Soon it was found necessary to form an organization to handle the affairs of the Reading Room, so, on April 7, 1883, the following Directors for the Reading Room Association were elected:—James Gayley, William Brusstar, Horace Diefenderfer, Isaac Wright, George W. Lacey and Benjamin Roberts. William Brusstar, Secretary and Treasurer and Harry Connor, Librarian.

Splendid book cases, with glass doors, were furnished with the classics of the period, an encyclopedia, boys' books, the ever present Government Reports, etc. It was used for the Church's entertainments and social as well as the boys' organization formed and directed by the Rev. Mr. Leaf and operated under the name of the Guild of the Iron Cross. Due to the Rector's age and failing health that organization soon disbanded.

It appears that the use of the Rooms became commonplace and

dropped off to the extent that a meeting of citizens was called for on February 23, 1891, for the purpose of re-organizing the Edward Brooke Reading Room and opening it to the public.

With the death of the Rev. Edmund Leaf on June 17, 1891, and the appointment of the Rev. Benjamin F. Thompson, Rector, on October first, it was only to be expected that there would be a let down in all Parish activities. Other work of the new Rector occupied his time but by 1893 a piano was secured for the Room and in November it was found necessary to employ a janitress. At this time some repairs and improvements were made including the calsomining of both the rooms.

On January 6, 1894, the first "Twelfth Night" social gathering of the congregation was held on the Feast Day of the Epiphany. During the month of August the partition between the two rooms was changed by the addition of large folding doors. That permitted the rooms to be made into one for use during large gatherings.

Activities started to increase with the Twelfth Night socials becoming an annual event; another piano was purchased in 1895; the Brotherhood of St. Andrew had its meetings there. On February 27 A Pleasant Evening was conducted by Hattie Hunter and Elizabeth Kupp. Henry & Alderman's orchestra entertained.

Needing funds for improving the Rooms a Concert was held on May 18 in the Birdsboro Auditorium at which there was a profit of \$33.00 on 25c admissions. The program consisted of some visiting entertainers from Reading, singing by the Church Choir and instrumental music by the 46th Regimental Band.

On November 11, 1896, it was arranged to throw the Rooms open to the use of the men of the community on Thursday nights under the supervision of the members of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew. Due to the loss of many of the books from the library a ruling was made that none were to be taken from the Room. During the winter months the Rooms were in use from two to three nights weekly.

On August 25, 1897, there was talk of starting a Kindergarten at a monthly cost of \$25.00 to be supported by public subscription. The school opened on Monday October 4, daily one to four o'clock, with 14 scholars with the teacher being Miss Louisa Evans. By February the attendance increased to 22 with an average of 17 present from the start. Following the summer vacation the school was re-opened October 3, 1898, by February it was closed for lack of interest and funds but Miss Evans offered to continue to the end of the term March 31.

January 26, 1898, a Vocal and Phonograph Concert was held with the admission price of ten cents returning a profit of \$6.60. The Choir sang darky songs with solos by Rev. Mr. Thompson, Luther Redcay and Roy Kissinger. The latest Edison Phonograph, using Columbia Records, delighted the audience.

On November 8, 1899, the Rector announced free public lectures, weekly.

By 1900 the Rector conceived the idea of the enlarged use of the building and on January 17 announced the purpose of a men's public room or gymnasium to be open every night. Then on February 28, 1900, he reported having received a contribution of ten dollars and that he needed only \$990.00 more. During the following months he conducted an appeal in the Birdsboro paper but did not get much encouragement until February 27, 1901. Then the cost had jumped to \$1200.00 and he appealed for dollar contributions. Subscriptions started coming in by the middle of March to the extent that plans for an additional room of larger area to be added to the northern end of the building were completed.

On October 14 the Church Vestry approved the name of the "Men's Public Room" at a cost of \$1500.00 for the addition to the building. The foundations were completed by November 27 and L. H. Focht, the contractor, started construction on January 22, 1902. In the meantime the employees of the Pennsylvania Diamond Drill & Machine Company had contributed \$69.50.

During the time of planning the Men's Public Room a number of Parish activities took place. During October 1900 the two original rooms were improved by coloring the walls a deep green, varnishing the woodwork and repairing the windows and stoves. By November the rooms were opened for the use of boys with thirty present the first Monday night. The rooms were used by the men of the community on Saturday nights. Monthly lecture courses with Magic Lantern pictures were presented at a charge of ten cents.

In January 1901 a three day's Rummage Sale of the benefit of the Reading Room netted \$16.38. Several Socials for all young people attracted 85 people during the winter.

The new addition was completed by October 29, 1902, and furnishings were being purchased for the opening on December eighth. Oliver J. Eck was employed to serve as janitor and director at a salary of ten dollars per month. The new room was equipped with baths, pool tables, shuffle-board, chess, checkers, cards, magazines, etc., 1510 men used the facilities of the room from December 8 to December 31. A show case was provided and stocked with candy and other good things for sale, pool was charged for at the rate of one cent per cue per game. The profits from these sources were sufficient to defray the operating expenses of the Room. The total attendance to March 20 was 5179.

The entire building was reserved for Parish use and the annual Twelfth Night Social was held on January 6, 1903, with Nagle's Orchestra providing the music for the dancing. The dances included the Schottish, Waltz, Twostep, Plain Quadrille and Lancers.

The Rector reported on February fourth that the last payment

was made on the new building with the total cost amounting to \$1900.00. The contributions of the general public were quite helpful but, in the end, the bulk of the total cost was met by individual contributions of the members of St. Michael's.

Following the summer vacation the Room was re-opened on October fifth. Due to the sickness of Janitor Eck it was necessary to get George Hartz to fill that position.

The Men's Public Room was re-opened for the winter season on October 5, 1903, with the attendance averaging 57 nightly during the month. The Rector announced that starting with November 25 the Room would be open on Saturday afternoons with hot baths ready for use. Monthly increases in attendance during the winter months proved the popularity of the venture.

Clifton Sands made a large coffee pot and presented it in April 1904.

The Rev. Mr. Thompson was concerned about the younger boys who tried to join the older ones in the use of the Room so he decided to make a boys' room in the basement. Two hundred dollars was needed for that purpose so another rummage sale was conducted on November 30 that produced \$25.08.

Work on the room progressed during the summer of 1905 and was opened for use on October 16 with an attendance of 55 boys under the supervision of George Green. A committee on decoration included Blaine Slipp, Lew Dengler, Clyde Rothermel, Chester Arters and Charles Armour.

According to an old proverb "Boys will be Boys" and that proved only too true for on January 10, 1906, the Rector closed the Boys Club Room owing to bad and destructive behavior of the boys.

Following two years' service as Janitor of the Men's Room, George Hartz resigned and John Mast was selected for the position in the fall of 1905. Mast filled the position for the next six or eight years and was succeeded by Lloyd Lykens. The use of the Men's Room continued in full blast for about ten years and then the attendance started to decline. The decline can be partly attributed to the change of habits of the age group that used to gather there. Other clubs and organizations attracted some, a few automobiles attracted others, and the addition of a late train on the Pennsylvania Railroad from Reading and the late trolley service proved a convenience to many who spent their evenings in Reading.

At a Church Vestry meeting, held April 20, 1919, the Reading Room Committee consisting of Robert E. Brooke and Cyrus G. Henry, reported no use of the Men's Room for some time and suggested turning it into a Y. M. C. A.

Following a year's effort they reported no success on the Y. M. C. A. That ended a most laudable public service to the men of the com-

munity that was conducted and managed by three successive Rectors and the Church Vestry.

All through the years the two original rooms continued to be used for Parish purposes. The 1907 Twelfth Night celebration was attended by 110 Church members and friends in spite of very stormy weather. Kline's Orchestra provided the music for the dancing. A humorous feature was the dancing of Harry E. Hart in rubber boots. The refreshments consisted of cake and coffee.

On January 26 of the same year a lecture "300 Years of American Christianity" by Rev. Benj. S. Sanderson, Bethlehem, was greatly enjoyed by a good audience.

On February 2, 1908, the Rector lectured on his tour of England and Ireland to a large audience.

During February the Church services were held in the Reading Room due to the Church heater being worn out.

During the winter of 1909 Charles Brooke conducted a series of free lectures fully illustrated with travel pictures.

The new Rector, the Rev. Francis Yarnall and Mrs. Yarnall, were honored with a reception at the Twelfth Night Social on January 6, 1908. The Rev. Mr. Yarnall spoke on his conception of the work of St. Michael's, that he had been told that it would be hard to fill the shoes of the recently resigned Rector but that he did not intend to try to fill those shoes but would stand on his own feet. That statement delighted the audience.

The Rev. Harry Howe Bogert and Mrs. Bogert were given a similar reception four years later. The Rev. Mr. Bogert proved to be something of an entertainer with a number of monologues and imitations one of which was of an elderly lady trying to thread a needle.

In March 1924 The Rev. Arthur B. Vossler and family were greeted at a reception by the members of the congregation.

Toilets were installed during the month of April 1925 and the old steam heater was replaced with a new and larger heater to serve as a heating unit for the Church and Sunday School building.

The Birdsboro Visiting Nurse Association used the rooms for Baby Clinics and sent a letter of thanks under the date of February 8, 1926. They continued to hold their meetings in the building and stored their supplies there for the next twenty years.

A piano was purchased for \$100.00 in September 1926.

The 75th Anniversary of the Consecration of St. Michael's Episcopal Church was celebrated over a period of three days culminating in a Congregational Banquet in the Reading Room on June 20, 1928.

The Rev. Mr. Vossler made some changes by re-building the partition between the front rooms and adding open fireplaces in both rooms. The Vestry, under date of May 14, 1936, authorized other repairs and improvement of the grounds.

The Twelfth Night Social of 1938 was supervised by William T. McKinney, assisted by Harry E. Hart, and was termed a big success.

In January 1939 a reception was held for the new Rector the Rev. Irving A. McGrew. Responding to the introduction the Rector said he did not have any plans for the Church but would bide his time and cross bridges when necessary, he spoke on the Brotherhood of Man and delighted those present with a number of humorous stories. Mrs. McGrew and the daughters were well received.

The Rev. Mr. McGrew soon found the need of some improvements when on March 9 he announced that volunteers were making repairs to the Reading Room by doing some re-painting, improvements to the electric service, re-arranging the library books, etc. George R. Snyder assisted in and supervised the work.

During the 200th Anniversary Celebration of the founding of Birdsboro held the latter part of June 1940, the Reading Room was used for entertaining former citizens of the community who returned for the celebration.

In September 1941 a dozen folding chairs were added to the large number of an assorted variety of chairs that had been there for many years.

With the war in the air early in 1942 the local Unit of the American Red Cross started to use the building and, two months later, the local Defense Council was granted the full use of the rooms.

On January 14, 1943, the Red Cross Nutrition Course was granted the use of the rooms on the application of Mrs. Robert B. Smith.

On April 8 Mrs. Elmer Shanaman presented a large table and, later in the year, Mrs. Charles D. Marshall presented a set of chairs.

The 1943 Twelfth Night Social included a reception for the present Rector, the Rev. Dr. Thomas B. Smythe and Mrs. Smythe. Since this was not the first time the Rev. Mr. Smythe addressed the Reading Room audience, those present expected and received another stirring address.

The annual Community Bible School was held in the rooms for a period of two weeks in June. That custom has prevailed for a number of years.

During the month of August 1945 extensive repairs and improvements included repairs to the floor joists, new porch floor, repairs to the roof and spouting, electric service including the installation of new lighting fixtures, varnishing of the interior woodwork and painting of the outside of the building.

A Parish Party was held on September 28, the eve of St. Michael's Day. The Rev. John Henry Lehn, Rector of St. Mary's Church, Reading, was the speaker. The balance of the evening was spent in dancing, card playing and the serving of refreshments.

At the Church Vestry meeting held November 12, 1946, the Rector

reported that the Reading Room was used for the quarterly meeting of the Berks County Cemetery Association, a Parish Party, and weekly religious services for the children of the public schools under the direction of the Birdsboro Ministerium. The several Protestant Churches of Birdsboro financed the project.

Late in 1947 an oil painting of the Schuylkill Canal, by Harvey Kring a former member of the choir, was accepted and exhibited in the front room.

The Cemetery Association, again, held the fall meeting in the rooms in 1948.

By this time the appointments of the room attracted a number of organizations but the use was restricted to those organizations of a public nature. They included the Reading Hospital Auxiliary, the St. Joseph's Hospital Auxiliary and the local groups of the Camp Fire Girls of Berks County.

Getting into 1949 and the use of the rooms by Parish organizations increasing, the Men of St. Michael's sponsored the work of modernizing the kitchen. Considerable work was done by the men, the Rector assisting, and Burton B. Smith putting finishing touches on the cupboards and work tables. Mrs. Charles D. Marshall contributed a large, modern gas stove and the work was financed by the proceeds of a festival and from the Church treasury. A new entrance, with steps and a landing was added to the kitchen. Altogether the cost of the improvements amounted to more than one thousand dollars.

All of this work was completed just in time for an outstanding event in the life of the Parish, that of celebrating the 25th anniversary of the ordination to the Priesthood of the Rector. One hundred persons enjoyed a sumptuous dinner followed by short addresses by Bishop Sterrett and the Rectors of all the Episcopal Churches of Berks County. Many valuable gifts for the Rector were a reminder of his work at St. Michael's as well as at St. Gabriel's, Douglassville and St. Thomas, Morgantown.

While a number of the books in the library, not having been used for many years, were given to the Public Library sponsored by the Sponsors Club when that was started, still many good volumes remained on the shelves. The local High School was granted permission to select any books they desired during the month of November 1950. Many excellent volumes remain to add culture to the room and to gather dust in the years to come.

For the past year or so the sessions of the Sunday School have been held in the Reading Room and this year's Christmas program was held there.

The last activity for the year 1950 was a Choir Party held on December 29.

The Parish Building, the Edward Brooke Reading Room, has full-

filled a great need both to the Parish and the Community. At times the expense of the upkeep has been quite a burden but the building is essential to a well rounded property of an Episcopal Parish such as St. Michael's.

St. Michael's Cemetery

Quoting Rev. Edmund Leaf: "For some time before the buildings and grounds of the Cemetery were secured the want began to be seriously felt of better provision for the burial of the dead." "Hence, after several unsuccessful efforts to procure a suitable place, the opportunity occurred to purchase the property formerly known as the Philomathean Institute".

The Philomathean Institute was founded May 9, 1859, with the following officers and trustees:—Major Henry S. Kupp, President; Ezekiel Beard, Treasurer; John F. Linderman, Secretary; and Edward Brooke, Adam Hipple and George Maxton, Trustees. Professor Barge was employed to conduct the Institute and serve as the teacher. As a stock company the Institute conducted a pay school of higher learning.

Trustees and instructors changed from year to year indicating that the venture was not too successful. Barge was followed by Cheston, Guldin, Dennison and Herman Smith. The company sold out to Smith and he, in turn, was sold out by the Sheriff in 1866. James Healy, Port Union, principal creditor, purchased the property and sold it to Rev. Edmund Leaf on January 21, 1867, for the sum of \$1,675.00. The property included one acre, more or less, and the school building. Following the incorporation of St. Michael's Church, on December 21, 1867, Edmund Leaf and Harriet Leaf deeded the property to the Church.

Edward Brooke very graciously loaned the money on a mortgage. Interested members of the Church provided funds for adding a dwelling to the building for use as a residence for the Sexton.

Daniel Webster Knabb, age 28 years, was the first to be buried on what is now the Cemetery. He died July 30, 1867, and was buried on his father's property adjoining the new Cemetery. On May 19, 1868, the Cemetery purchased one acre and sixty-nine perches from Daniel and Melinda Knabb with the understanding that their lot was to be included in the purchase price.

The western boundary was on a line running north and south through the spot now occupied by the Edward Brooke monument.

The grounds were plotted into 260 lots of fifteen feet square each. They were offered for sale at \$20.00 per lot with arrangements for paying \$5.00 down money, the balance to be secured by a promissory note, and the deed to be provided upon payment of the note.

Isaac Kring was appointed Sexton with the privilege of living in the dwelling adjoining the former school building which had been converted into the Chapel. A wall fronting on the river road was built with the stone costing \$127.00 delivered on the property by Charles



1950

THE CHAPEL

ST. MICHAEL'S CEMETERY

Keller, Healy & Ehrgood, Port Union, furnished 1,300 pointed pickets (pales) at two and one-half cents each to fence in the property. The Sexton built the fence and was paid \$66.50 for the work and \$4.55 for white-washing the 65 panels of fence.

With the completion of the Cemetery quite a number of the lot owners had the bodies of relatives removed from the Methodist (Old) Cemetery. Among them was the body of George B. Kupp who was killed before Petersburg, Va., during the Civil War. His remains were among the first to have been returned for burial on a family lot.

The bodies of William J. Lutz and Clymer C. Green were returned from France following the first World War for burial in their respective family lots. William Sleider's remains were the first returned following the second World War. The record of veterans buried in St. Michael's includes the name of John White who fought in the War of 1812, Edward Connor in the Mexican War and Joseph Edmond Kerst who was a veteran of both the Spanish-American War and the first World War. 135 veterans of the Civil War rest in the Cemetery. The last G.A.R. resident of Birdsboro to be buried was Henry Kissinger. James R. Homan, a former resident of Birdsboro, was the last to pass away and

be buried here. The Spanish-American War is represented by 9 veterans; the first World War by 24; and the Second World War by 9.

The Cemetery provided a so-called soldiers lot where five veterans of the Civil War are buried.

The oldest date found in the Cemetery is recorded on the tombstone of Martha Bland, born August 1776, died May 1867 and is on the Maxton lot.

The Rev. Mr. Leaf reported 60 lots having been sold by the end of 1872. With the beginning of that year Mr. George W. Harrison assumed the dual positions of superintendent and treasurer of the Cemetery. He kept an accurate list of the sale of lots and all business transactions until his death in 1902.

With the purchase of additional land in 1880 and, again, in 1883, there was an increase in the sale price of lots to \$35.00. In 1898 three acres of land, including the old stone house known as the "Granny" Kupp house, was purchased from the E. & G. Brooke Land Company. Further purchases from the same company in 1904 and 1941, with the purchase of one acre, 52 perches, from Lydia K. Yoder, along the south-eastern boundary, in 1947, resulted in the present acreage of approximately 18 acres.

The price of lots has increased from time to time to the present price of \$100.00 for an eight grave lot. All lots are sold subject to the payment of \$200.00 endowment for the perpetual care of the lot. A part of this increase was brought about by the necessity of increasing the size of lots to accommodate the large vaults that have replaced the old type over-boxes and walled graves.

Probably the most outstanding funeral held in the Cemetery was that of Edward Brooke, who died on Christmas Day 1878. It is recorded that the procession to the Cemetery was nearly a mile long, comprising fifty or more carriages, and about 1,000 employees of the works and citizens of Birdsboro, headed by Caleb K. Rhoads, who had charge of the funeral escort.

The founder of the Cemetery, Rev. Edmund Leaf, died June 17, 1891, and is buried there. Bishop Rulison and eight priests participated in the services. His wife, Harriet Potts Leaf, died the following year and is buried beside him. Henry G. Hunter, Secretary of the Vestry, and first Principal of the Birdsboro Public Schools, died January 28, 1898, and was buried with great honors. There have been many military funeral services conducted with that for William J. Lutz, killed in France in the first World War, being outstanding.

The custom of lodges holding funeral services, a common occurrence in past years, is being discontinued, but military funerals for war veterans still prevail depending upon the wishes of the families.

Memorial Day has always been an outstanding day for decorating the graves of war veterans and loved ones who have passed to their

eternal rest. Flags have been placed on^{the} graves of all veterans by veterans organizations and for a number of years the patriotic lodges placed flags on the graves of deceased members. Formerly a salute was fired over the grave of the last buried veteran, but that ceremony now is included with the exercises at the Soldiers Monument. That monument was dedicated following a huge patriotic parade and exercises on July 4, 1905. Facing north is the following inscription:—

A Memento to the Soldiers Buried Here

Erected by Council of 9—G. A. R.

A. D. 1905

Pres. Enos L. Alderman

V. Pres. John H. Deeds

Sec'y. John W. Davis

Treas'r. John Reeser

Chaplain Lewis R. Bland

Henry K. Harrison assumed the treasurership in 1902 and a committee managed the affairs of the Cemetery. This committee improved the gateway entrance by removing the decayed wooded gate posts and engaged Wm. Hummerick, a local stone-cutter, to erect the present eastern gateway.

Eliza B. Evans left a bequest of \$300.00 to the Cemetery June 3, 1903; which was followed by bequests from Leah Deeter Feb. 4, 1909, and Mary L. Beard Feb. 25, 1913. Henry Close, a former resident of Birdsboro, died February 8, 1915, and was buried in a special vault designed by himself on the family lot. Under his will a sum of money was placed in trust with the income to be used for the beautification of the Cemetery. He specified that fences, walls, gates shrubbery and repairs to the Chapel be taken care of and any balance to be retained for the building of a new Chapel.

The new wall was built in 1922 following the removal of the old maple trees facing the River Road. The old Kupp house was razed and the western gateway erected.

Isaac Kring resigned the position of Sexton in 1884 and was succeeded by Isaac Hahn. For 35 years Mr. Hahn took great pride in keeping the Cemetery in excellent condition and resigned in 1919 due to his advanced age. Heber Seifert served in the same capacity until 1927 when he resigned and removed from the dwelling adjoining the Chapel. Until this time the respective Sextons collected the money for attending the lots, digging the graves and other work paid by the Cemetery. They were required to mow the grass on all the lots at least once a year but never mowed unpaid lots until after Memorial Day. That was a manner of business with them for lot owners wanted them in good condition for Memorial Day.

In 1927 there was a change in the management of the Cemetery

with Harry E. Hart serving as Superintendent, Raymond A. Huyett, Treasurer, and Reuben Doaty, Sexton. Under the superintendency of Harry E. Hart, St. Michael's cemetery has grown from a country graveyard to a modern cemetery. Mr. Hart has served on the Committee for many years and took a great interest in the Cemetery being responsible for many of the improvements. Under the new set-up the Sexton was paid a monthly salary and all income and the payment of expenses were handled through Mr. Hart's office and the treasurer.

Mr. Hart had the southern part of the Cemetery plotted and the circular drive completed. The interior of the Chapel was renovated and repainted, the mounds were removed from all the graves, excess foot stones and fence railings of lots removed and the sunken pathways were filled to the level of the lots. These improvements made it possible to keep the Cemetery grounds in the best condition. The planting of shade and ornamental trees and bushes added to the general beauty of the Cemetery.

The Berks County Cemetery Association was founded in 1930 by Peter I. Scholl, of Charles Evans Cemetery, Reading, Harry E. Hart, William Christ, Kutztown, Charles Glase, Oley, and others. Scholl was the first president, Harry E. Hart the second president and Daniel K. Miller and Rev. Thomas B. Smythe, of St. Michael's, served in that capacity in later years. Meetings are held quarterly at the various member Cemeteries where topics of interest are discussed. Cemetery laws, rules and methods of handling unusual conditions have proved interesting and valuable, justifying attendance at all meetings.

Flower Sunday was originated by Mr. Hart in 1932. Since that time it has been an annual affair and is held on the Sunday following Labor Day. The thought behind this movement was the use of the many beautiful flowers so profuse at this time of the year and the idea of people visiting the Cemetery when it was in an excellent condition before the chill of autumn and bitter cold of winter set in.

The exercises are very well attended and consist of a speaker, prayers, community singing led by one of the local Church Choirs and introduction of the Cemetery officials.

The thought of endowing lots for perpetual care is of recent date and that of making endowments to provide flowers is even more recent. There was a great increase in endowments in the nineteen-thirties so that most of the older lots are now assured of always being cared for for all future time. New lots are sold subject to the payment of the endowment.

The Chapel is very seldom used due to the holding of funerals from Funeral Homes. Former citizens, passing away in distant communities, are taken to the Chapel for the benefit of local relatives and friends. Starting about 1870, Rev. Edmund Leaf, conducted monthly communion services in the Chapel for the residents of Union Township and a

Sunday School was held there for many years with Caleb K. Rhoads serving as the Superintendent.

St. Michael's was one of the first Cemeteries to be started at some distance from the Church. As Rev. Edmund Leaf served the spiritual wants of the whole community, he started the Cemetery for the use of the community and it will always be conducted for that purpose.

The present officers of the Cemetery are:—Harry E. Hart, Superintendent; Daniel K. Miller, Treasurer; Howard Murray, Lee K. Hook, and Elsie M. Blood, Secretary and Bookkeeper. The present Sexton, Harry T. Bland, lives in the dwelling at the Chapel.

There are 3375 persons buried on 963 lots and five in the George Brooke Family Vault.

A Postscript from the Rector

I have thoroughly enjoyed reading the material which appears in this history, and I deeply appreciate the hard work that has been so cheerfully given by those who have prepared the book. Each member of the Committee has had a hand in the task, but special mention must be made of the contribution of Mr. Daniel K. Miller. He has been collecting the needed information over a period of years; he has given unstintingly of his time at every stage of the publication. We are deeply indebted to him. My second impression is that the life of a Church is quite like that of a family or of an individual. We have had our ups and downs, times of prosperity and adversity, times of growth and times of seeming loss. Yet it must be true that the Church gave its comfort and strength and guidance just as effectively, just as helpfully when conditions were difficult as when the sun seemed to be shining at its brightest. Then perhaps my deepest impression is a sense of the obligation we owe to those who have borne the burden and heat of the day, those who have done so much for us. So little of what we enjoy in our Parish have we furnished ourselves; so much has been given us by those of an earlier generation. "O God, to us may grace be given to follow in their train". Finally, I cannot help noting the manner in which the same family names appear at every point in our Church history, and I rejoice that for the most part those family names still appear on the active list of our Parishioners. Theirs is a noble heritage.

A hundred years of Parish life is complete. How God has blessed us! We enter the second century with every confidence. Our people are faithful and loyal; our Church is furnishing today as it did in the past a full measure of leadership to our community; our organizations are vigorous and devoted. Our faith is in God.

"O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come;
Be Thou our guard while life shall last
And our eternal home."

THOMAS B. SMYTHE.

100th Anniversary Committees

General Chairman: MR. HOWARD MURRAY

General Treasurer: MR. DANIEL K. MILLER

PARISH HISTORY COMMITTEE: Mr. Daniel K. Miller, Chairman, Mrs. John S. Herbein, Mr. Harry L. Hart, James F. Bell, Esq., and Mr. John M. Hohl.

PARISH DINNER COMMITTEE: Mrs. George R. Snyder, Chairman, Mrs. Henry Rhoads, Mrs. Herman Berstler, Mr. Robert Grubb, Mr. Raymer Kent, Mr. Lee K. Hook, Mrs. Thomas B. Smythe.

PARISH DANCE COMMITTEE: Mr. William C. Kelly, Chairman, Mr. Richard Murray, Mrs. Paul Bernard, Mrs. Benjamin G. Morgan, Mr. John D. Marquet, Mr. Robert M. Smith, Mr. George O. Hook, Mr. Stanley S. Yoder, Jr., Miss Carolyn Grace Hetrich.

CHOIR REUNION COMMITTEE: Mr. Burton B. Smith, Chairman, Mrs. Gail Hook, Mrs. George Lutz, Mr. William T. McKinney, Mr. John Reeser, Mrs. Harriet Albright, Mr. Edward Albright.

ANNIVERSARY ENDOWMENT FUND: Mr. Ernest S. Rhoads, Chairman, Mr. Donnell Marshall, Mr. George R. Snyder, Mr. Marshall Post, Mr. Robert C. Brooke, Mr. George Brooke, 3rd., Mr. G. Clymer Brooke, Mr. F. Ward Coburn, Mrs. G. Walter Focht, Mrs. Webster C. Kropp, James F. Bell, Esq.

READING ROOM FLOOR: Mr. John S. Herbein, Chairman, Mr. Ernest S. Rhoads, Mr. John H. Reeser, Mr. Burton B. Smith, Mr. Glenn A. Reeser, Mr. William E. McKinney, Mr. William C. Kelly, Gerald E. Deam, William T. McKinney, Raymer W. Kent, Robert B. Smith, Mrs. William C. Kelly, Mrs. Raymer W. Kent.

PARISH ORGANIZATION

Rector: The Reverend Thomas B. Smythe.

Choir-master: Mr. Carl L. Derr.

Organist: Mrs. George D. Lutz.

Senior Warden: Mr. Ernest S. Rhoads.

Junior Warden: Mr. Howard Murray.

Clerk and Treasurer: Mr. Daniel K. Miller.

Members of the Vestry: Mr. Donnell Marshall, Mr. Harry L. Hart, Mr. Lee K. Hook, Mr. George R. Snyder.

Sexton: Mrs. Leroy Yohn.

Program
of the
ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH
May 12 to May 15, 1951

SATURDAY, May 12th. 8:00 P. M. in the Edward Brooke Reading Room
A Dance and Entertainment given by the Parish for the young people of the Parish and their friends.

WHITSUNDAY, May 13th, 11:00 A. M. in the Church
The Home-coming Service when present and former members will be welcomed to the Celebration. The Holy Communion will be celebrated by the Rector, assisted by The Reverend Francis Yarnall.

WHITSUNDAY, May 13th, 5:30 P. M. in the Church
A Service of music, for the Re-union of all present and former Choir members, with an Address by The Reverend Francis Yarnall, followed by a Buffet Supper and a social gathering in the Reading Room, where the Birdsboro Monettes, a Girls' Chorus, will give a program.

MONDAY IN WHITSUNWEEK, May 14th, in the Church. 9:00 A. M. The Holy Communion will be celebrated by The Reverend Francis Yarnall.

MONDAY IN WHITSUNWEEK
8:00 P. M. A Parish Party, with a musical program by the Birdsboro NeoLydian Chorus, in the Edward Brooke Reading Room.

TUESDAY IN WHITSUNWEEK, May 15th, in the Church. 9:00 A. M. The Holy Communion will be celebrated by The Reverend Daniel C. Osborn.

TUESDAY IN WHITSUNWEEK, May 15. At The Reading Country Club. The Parish will hold a Dinner for its members and guests, with the main address made by The Rt. Rev. Frank Wm. Sterrett, D.D., Bishop of Bethlehem. There will be greetings from the other Clergy present.

Members

OF THE CONGREGATION AND PARISH

Whitsuntide 1951

Mr. Edward Albright
Mrs. Harriet Albright
Mrs. James O. Archer
Mrs. J. William Bagley
Miss Joan Barry
Dr. A. L. Loomis Bell
Mrs. A. L. Loomis Bell
Miss Nancy S. Bell
Mr. James F. Bell, II
Dr. A. L. Loomis Bell, Jr.
Mrs. A. L. Loomis Bell, Jr.
A. L. Loomis Bell, III
Mr. Paul Bernard
Mrs. Paul Bernard
Mr. Herman E. Berstler
Mrs. Herman E. Berstler
Mrs. Clara Bleistine
Dr. John L. Bower
Mr. E. Lee Bowman
Mrs. E. Lee Bowman
Mr. George Brooke, Jr.
Mr. George Brooke, 3rd
Mrs. George Brooke, 3rd
Mr. G. Clymer Brooke
George Clymer Brooke, Jr.
Morris Randall Brooke
Mr. Robert C. Brooke
Mrs. Robert C. Brooke
Mrs. Robert E. Brooke
Mr. John P. Burke
Mr. Philip Burke
Mrs. Reginald Casselberry
Miss Jessie Cliff
Mr. Fordyce Coburn
Mr. F. Ward Coburn
Mrs. F. Ward Coburn
Mr. Peter J. Dadey
Mrs. Peter J. Dadey
Mr. Peter Dadey
Mr. William H. Davidson
Mrs. William H. Davidson
Mr. Gerald Deam
Mrs. Gerald Deam
Mr. Harry L. Delaquito
Mrs. Harry L. Delaquito
Mr. Jannar Delaquito
Mr. Leonard Delaquito
Mrs. Lulu Dengler
Mr. Carl L. Derr
Mrs. Carl L. Derr
Barbara Ann Derr
Mrs. Raymond DeTurek

Mrs. Lloyd Eamer
Mr. Howard Eppihimer
Mr. William Eppihimer
Mrs. Albert Fix
Mrs. G. Walter Focht
Mr. William Fornoff
Mrs. William Fornoff
Mr. Robert Freeman
Mrs. Robert Freeman
Mark H. Freeman
Andrew Freeman
Miss Rita Freeman
Richard Freeman
Miss Phyllis Furst
Mrs. John Gardiner, Jr.
Mr. Hunter Geiger
Miss Dorothy Gotwald
Mr. Paul K. Gotwald
Mrs. Paul K. Gotwald
Mrs. Phineas Groff
Miss Anna Gross
Mr. Robert S. Grubb
Mrs. Robert S. Grubb
Miss Patricia Grubb
Mrs. Arthur H. Haller
Arthur Wm. Haller
Robert Charles Haller
Daniel Haller
Mr. Harry L. Hart
Mrs. Robert Hauck
Rose Marie Hauck
Miss Lorena Haws
Mrs. Charles Henry
Mr. Russell Henry
Mrs. George Henry
Mr. George P. Henry
Mrs. George P. Henry
JoAnn Henry
George Ann Henry
Geraldine Henry
George P. Henry, Jr.
Mr. James Henry
Mr. T. Ellis Henry
Mrs. T. Ellis Henry
James Ellwood Henry
Mr. Thomas E. Henry, III
Mrs. Thomas E. Henry
Mr. John S. Herbein
Mrs. John S. Herbein
John Giles Herbein
William Walter Herbein
Mrs. George R. Hetrich

George R. Hetrich
 Miss Carolyn Grace Hetrich
 Mrs. William Hiscock
 Mr. Harold Hoffman
 Mrs. Harold Hoffman
 Eric Franklin Hoffman
 Mr. James L. Hohl
 Mrs. James L. Hohl
 Mr. John Milton Hohl
 Mr. Marryatt T. Hohl
 Mrs. Marryatt T. Hohl
 Mr. Gail L. Hook
 Mrs. Gail L. Hook
 Mr. Lee K. Hook
 Mrs. Lee K. Hook
 Mr. William Hook
 Mr. George O. Hook
 Mrs. Grace M. Jones
 Mrs. Russell C. Jones
 Mr. William C. Kelly
 Mrs. William C. Kelly
 Mr. H. Charles Kellum
 Mrs. H. Charles Kellum
 Mr. A. Raymer Kent
 Mr. Raymer W. Kent
 Mrs. Raymer W. Kent
 Thomas Foret Kent
 Raymer A. Kent
 Mrs. Ada Kerst
 Miss Agnes L. Kerr
 Mrs. Alfred Keyes
 Mrs. Earl Koch
 Mr. Webster C. Kropp
 Mrs. Webster C. Kropp
 Miss Mary L. Kropp
 Miss Helen Margaret Kropp
 Mr. Michael S. Krum
 Mrs. Michael S. Krum
 Duane Krum
 Mrs. William Lacey
 Mr. Francis Lange
 Mr. Powell Lange
 Mr. Milton Leininger
 Mrs. Milton Leininger
 Mr. Frederick Ling
 Mrs. Frederick Ling
 Mr. George F. Loder
 Mrs. George F. Loder
 Mrs. Andrew Love
 Mrs. George Lutz
 Dr. Frank P. Lytle
 Miss Maud Louise Lytle
 Mr. Charles Manwiller
 Mr. Robert Manwiller
 Mr. John H. Marquet
 Mrs. John H. Marquet
 Mr. John D. Marquet
 Mrs. John D. Marquet
 Miss Betty Marquet
 Mrs. Charles D. Marshall
 Mr. Donnell Marshall
 Mrs. Donnell Marshall

Charles D. Marshall
 Alice Brooke Marshall
 Eliza Phipps Marshall
 Mr. William T. McKinney
 Mrs. William T. McKinney
 Mr. William E. McKinney
 Mr. Stephen Meier
 Mrs. Stephen Meier
 Mr. Daniel K. Miller
 Mrs. Benjamin G. Morgan
 Mr. Benjamin S. Morgan
 Mrs. Benjamin S. Morgan
 Mr. William Morrison
 Mr. Vergil Mulholland
 Mrs. Vergil Mulholland
 Michael Mark Mulholland
 Mr. Walter S. Mulholland
 Mrs. Walter S. Mulholland
 Mr. William R. Mundell
 Mrs. William R. Mundell
 William Richard Mundell
 Mr. Howard Murray
 Mrs. Howard Murray
 Mr. James H. Murray
 Mr. Richard S. Murray
 Mr. George Nagle
 Mr. Richard Pawling
 Mrs. Richard Pawling
 Miss Minnie Peters
 Mrs. Esther K. Phillips
 Robert Phillips
 Mr. Marshall Post
 Mrs. Marshall Post
 Mr. Marshall Post, Jr.
 Mrs. Marshall Post, Jr.
 Mr. Grover C. Reasner
 Mrs. Grover C. Reasner
 Miss Patricia Reasner
 Miss Nancy Reasner
 Mr. Glenn Reeser
 Mrs. Glenn Reeser
 John Michael Reeser
 James David Reeser
 Mr. John H. Reeser
 Mr. Robert Reeser
 Mrs. Charles Reinert
 Mr. Ernest S. Rhoads
 Mrs. Henry A. Rhoads
 Mrs. John C. Rhoads
 Mr. Howard Rink
 Mrs. Howard Rink
 Miss Esther Rittenhouse
 Mrs. Elizabeth Sands
 Miss June Sands
 Mr. Herbert F. Scatchard
 Mrs. Herbert F. Scatchard
 Miss Frances Scatchard
 Mrs. James D. Shaner
 Mr. William Sharp
 Miss Lulu Seigfried
 Mr. Burton B. Smith
 Mrs. Burton B. Smith

Miss Elizabeth E. Smith
Mr. Robert B. Smith
Mrs. Robert B. Smith
Mr. Robert M. Smith
Mr. Thomas B. Smith
Mrs. Thomas B. Smith
Miss Marjorie Smith
Mr. William Smith
The Rev. Thomas B. Smythe
Mrs. Thomas B. Smythe
Mr. George R. Snyder
Mrs. George R. Snyder
Mr. Joseph Staverosky
Mrs. Joseph Staverosky
Mrs. J. V. R. Stehman
Mr. Frank Steward

Mrs. E. Lowber Stokes
Mrs. Charles L. Taylor
Mr. Albert Tucker
Mrs. Albert Tucker
Richard Tucker Green
Mrs. Roger B. Turk
Mrs. Elsie Turner
Mrs. Eugene Wamsher
Terry Scott Weiler
Miss Mary Jane Werley
Mrs. H. M. Willits
Mr. Stanley S. Yoder
Mrs. Stanley S. Yoder
Stanley S. Yoder, Jr.
Miss Frances Kay Yoder
John Yoder

MEMORANDUM

MEMORANDUM

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